

JPRS-NEA-84-149

4 October 1984

Near East/South Asia Report

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

4 October 1984

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

- Rafsanjani: Armenian Problems Will Be Resolved Successfully
(ALIK, 27 Aug 84)..... 1

ISLAMIC AFFAIRS

- Islamic Conference Official's Views on Current Situations
(Habib al-Shatti Interview; AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA
AL-DUWALI, No 382, 27 Aug - 8 Sep 84)..... 3

ARAB AFRICA

EGYPT

- Reliance of Certain Industries on Foreign Labor Examined
(Muhammad 'Abd-al-Tawwab; AL-TADAMUN, No 71, 18 Aug 84)... 7
- Iranians, Libyans Linked to Red Sea Mining
(AL-DUSTUR, No 337, 27 Aug 84)..... 10
- Prominent Intellectual Discusses Leftist Programs
(Lutfi al-Khuli Interview; HAQA'IQ, No 44, 31 Aug 84)..... 12

MAURITANIA

- Situation Under Haidalla's Presidency Examined
(Moriba Magassouba; AFRICA, No 163, Jul-Aug 84)..... 17

SUDAN

- President Numayri's Position Seen Deteriorating
(Richard Lewis; AL-DUSTUR, No 337, 27 Aug 84)..... 23

ARAB EAST/ISRAEL

IRAQ

Oil Minister Comments on Pipeline Projects, Oil Developments (AL-JUMHURIYAH, 1 Jun 84).....	28
Plans for Nasr Mechanical Industries Facility Reviewed (AL-JUMHURIYAH, 1 Jun 84).....	32

ISRAEL

Improvements Recorded in Banking Sector (Dror Sharvit; DAVAR, 11 Jul 84).....	34
Universities Face Severe Financial Crisis (Nurit Davrat; MA'ARIV, 22 Jul 84).....	36

SAUDI ARABIA

Restrictions Placed on Dealings With Bahrain's Offshore Banks (AL-TADAMUN, 28 Jul 84).....	38
Panel Reviews Function, Conduct of Morality Police in Depth (AL-YAMAMAH, No 813, 1 Aug 84).....	41
Saudi Arabia's Readiness To Provide Aid to Lebanon Discussed (Sulayman Namir; AL-MUSTAQBAL, No 389, 4 Aug 84).....	58
Pros and Cons of Overseas Investment Discussed (AL-YAMAMAH, No 814, 8 Aug 84).....	62

SYRIA

Administrator Discusses Tishrin Hospital Achievement (Huda al-'Abud; TISHRIN, 18 May 84).....	69
New Provinces Underway in Hamah Province (Mahmud al-Hamud; TISHRIN, 24 May 84).....	72
Baniyas Power Station Director Details Anti-Pollution Unit (Muhammad 'Ali 'Umrán; TISHRIN, 28 May 84).....	76

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

Lack of Sanitation Major Cause of Mujahidin Casualties (Jean-Louis Conne; LE MONDE, 29-30 Jul 84).....	80
---	----

IRAN

Wheat Stockpile Reported To Be Largest in 50 Years (SOBH-E AZADEGAN, 26 Aug 84).....	84
Montazeri Recommends Covert Supervision of Government Officials (SOBH-E AZADEGAN, 27 Aug 84).....	86
Technological Dependency Delaying Self-Sufficiency (KEYHAN, 30 Aug 84).....	89

PAKISTAN

Zia Said Being Given False Information (Jumma Khan Column; AMN, 17 Jul 84).....	96
Elections Viewed as Unifying Force for MRD (Khalid Kashmiri; NAWA-I-WAQT, 4 Aug 84).....	98
Prospects for Elections, Constitution Said Doubtful (Abdul Latif Sethi; NAWA-I-WAQT, 11 Aug 84).....	100
Commentary on Elections, Prayer Administration, Other Topics ('Zeno'; DAWN, 2 Sep 84).....	101
Illegal Practices by Refugees Criticized (Editorial; AMN, 17 Jul 84).....	103
Literacy: Facts, Figures Analyzed (Azra Ikram; DAWN, 31 Aug 84).....	105
Iranian Refugees Go On Hunger Strike (DAWN, 4 Sep 84).....	109
40M Identity Cards Said Issued (DAWN, 4 Sep 84).....	110
Code of Conduct for Ulema Formulated (DAWN, 4 Sep 84).....	111
Life, Ways of Immigrants From Bangladesh Described (Azmat Ansari; DAWN, 7 Sep 84).....	112
Joint Ventures With Jordan Identified (DAWN, 10 Sep 84).....	114
Pakistan, DPRK To Expand Cooperation (DAWN, 10 Sep 84).....	115
Baluch Tribal Chief Assassinated (DAWN, 10 Sep 84).....	116

Priority Urged for Science, Technology Education (DAWN, 10 Sep 84).....	117
Rice Cropping Trials Initiated (DAWN, 10 Sep 84).....	119
Karachi Industrialists Said To Prefer Military Rule (Ilyas Shakir; NAWA-I-WAQT, 11 Aug 84).....	120

RAFSANJANI: ARMENIAN PROBLEMS WILL BE RESOLVED SUCCESSFULLY

Tehran ALIK in Armenian 27 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] The Islamic Majlis representative of Armenians in Tehran and Northern Iran, Mr Vartan A. Vartanian, yesterday had an exclusive, previously arranged meeting with the President of the Majlis, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani.

After a warm reception, Mr Vartanian conveyed to the President of the Majlis the greetings of the Prelate of the Armenian Diocese of Tehran, Archbishop Ardak Manugian.

Majlis President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani delivered his reciprocal greetings and good wishes to the Holy Father, Armenian spiritual leaders and clergymen and the entire Armenian community.

Rafsanjani continued his remarks by saying that Islam has always treated the Christians and the Armenian minority well, because that is what Islam preaches and requires. He then expressed the hope that difficulties that have arisen in connection with [Armenian] schools are resolved successfully.

In response, Mr Vartanian explained emphatically the independent status of the Armenian Church and noted that the Armenian Church is the oldest church in the world and that, in 301 A.D., Armenia became the first country in the world to endorse Christianity as state religion.

Mr Vartanian continued: "Of course the monotheistic Christian religion had taken root among the Armenian people much before that thanks to the work of two of Christ's disciples, one of whom was St Thadeus. It is for this reason that the St Thadeus Monastery, which was built on the site of St Thadeus' martyrdom (53 A.D.), is of great value today to the entire Christian world and commands the respect of Armenian believers, who visit the monastery every year in an act of pilgrimage."

At this point, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani inquired about the state of the St Thadeus Monastery and its history and was given ample explanations by Mr Vartanian.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani added that the Islamic Republic of Iran will inform the entire world about the Armenian Church.

Mr Vartanian also stated that it is the wish of the Holy Father that the St Thadeus Monastery be turned into a place of pilgrimage for all Armenians of the world.

Noting that there is nothing to prevent that wish from being realized, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani promised to take all necessary measures to inform the world about the Armenian Church.

At that point, Mr Vartanian referred to the difficulties created in connection with Armenian schools and said that these problems, which will be resolved expeditiously with good will by virtue of the rights given to the Armenian community by the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, have unfortunately been turned into material for poisonous propaganda by foreign radio stations and that such acts are upsetting the centuries-old traditional friendly ties between the two communities.

Mr Vartanian continued his remarks by saying that it is our wish that the schools' problems be resolved positively through mutual understanding so that no grounds will be created to enable foreign as well as domestic media to make unwarranted and false declarations.

In response, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said: "Please convey my best wishes to the Armenian people. As always, today too, the Armenians will be viewed with more affection by the Iranian people for their proper stance."

Mr Vartanian later noted that the rights given by the Iranian Constitution to the religious minorities of Iran have been extensively echoed in certain European countries and expressed the hope that these provisions of the Constitution are implemented so that we can fully enjoy those rights.

9588

CSO: 4605/103

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OFFICIAL'S VIEWS ON CURRENT SITUATIONS

Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 382, 27 Aug - 8 Sep 84
pp 36-37

[Interview with Mr Habib al-Shatti by Antoine Basil in Tunis: "No Early Solutions For The Middle East, But I Am Optimistic About a Final Solution; The American Initiative Is A Mere Step, The Soviet Initiative Is The Sensible Solution"; date not specified]

[Text] AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI's correspondent met in Tunis with the Secretary General of the Islamic Conference, Mr Habib al-Shatti, and had the following interview:

[Question] Where does the role of the Islamic Conference Organization fit in efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis?

[Answer] The organization has been following developments in Lebanon ever since the beginning of the crisis. It is always working, perhaps inconspicuously, to help Lebanon bring this crisis to an end because its work is, always and forever, represented in contacts with countries and parties. The truth is that we have not undertaken direct action, first because the Arab League has taken responsibility for this task and I do not wish to create dualism, and second, we were afraid that some parties may consider our action prejudicial in view of our name. The fact is that we are an international organization that includes countries with both Muslims and Christians and cooperates with all peoples. However, there are the biased and the radical and we wanted to avoid any friction. At any rate, Lebanon is a preeminent member in our organization. Our organization takes interest in Lebanon's affairs and cooperates with its government and all officials. It is ready to undertake a conciliatory role if asked or if circumstances called for intervention. This could perhaps be a role of construction, I mean the reconstruction of Lebanon.

[Question] Lebanon needs Arab money for reconstruction. Will the organization play a role in this area?

[Answer] The organization will undertake this role with all its powers because it sympathizes with Lebanon due to its unique example of religious coexistence. Hence, we must help Lebanon with all our capabilities. Lebanon has suffered much and is in dire need of its brothers' solidarity. When I say its brothers,

I do not mean the Arab peoples alone, but rather all the peoples of the Islamic Conference Organization. Solidarity, as you know, is one of our main objectives. We will do our utmost to achieve such solidarity in Lebanon and to assist Lebanon in any way we can.

[Question] Are you going to visit the area soon in your capacity as the organization's secretary general?

[Answer] At present, there is no plan to visit the area. However, we could take this matter into serious consideration. I will check my schedule to see what commitments I have and whether I can make such a trip between now and next December.

[Question] How far has the mediation effort between Iran and Iraq gone?

[Answer] As you know, the committee met last month. It adopted several resolutions, including the holding of contacts between the two sides. It exerted great efforts to persuade them to solve this issue. We are in contact with both parties concerning a visit to each of them. We have not yet received final answers, but I can say that Iraq answered us by approving the holding of such contacts. We are still awaiting the Iranian response. In short, our proposals to both sides in the form of a comprehensive agreement to find an acceptable solution to the problem are worthy of adoption by both sides. However, one side has additional conditions, not contained in the plan we have presented, which we cannot fulfill. On this basis, I say that if we were successful in removing some of the obstacles, all elements that lead to the establishment of peace, to an end to the war and to a new agreement between the two sides are present and ready. We too are ready for the stage of stopping the fighting and establishing peace when we remove the obstacles.

One might ask when will the solution come about. This is a very difficult question to answer. We are continually working and are working silently because too much talk tends to complicate our efforts, despite the lack of response and the lack of willingness we are facing. Our hope is that we will arrive at a result. We believe that if our organization does not accomplish that, it will be more difficult for others to do so. This is recognized by the United Nations and the non-Aligned Movement who believe that this problem can only be solved within the Islamic scope.

The two countries are Muslim and are members of this organization and have both accepted the organization's mediation. Therefore, we are more qualified than others to achieve a result. If we do not, neither will others, ever. Our decision is to keep up our mediation efforts.

[Question] It is understood, from what you say, that there are obstacles and there are those who are being obtrusive. The question is what are these obstacles and who is being obtrusive?

[Answer] As a mediator, I should not divulge anything, so I am not going to say anything that can hinder the mediation. Also, as a mediator, I cannot express an opinion about either side. Therefore, I cannot say what those obstacles are and who is being obtrusive.

[Question] It appears that the area is heading for a settlement. There is a throng of American, Soviet and European plans. This is perhaps manifested in the Lebanese issue which is being cooled down. What do you think?

[Answer] First, I would like to separate the Lebanese problem from all other problems. Lebanon's problem is that of a sovereign country that has the right to live as it pleases and to run its affairs as it sees fit. Therefore, Lebanon has no more to do with the Middle East crisis than the rest of the neighbors. I hope that Lebanon's problems will be separated from the crisis in the area. I am not optimistic about early solutions in the Middle East, but I am optimistic about a final solution and the triumph of the Arab right. I do not believe that there will be early solutions. The multitude of settlement initiatives indicates that they are useless because if there was a true desire and if there was real readiness, one of these initiatives would have worked and we would have made steps within its scope. I support with all my might and that of the Islamic Conference Organization the Soviet initiative because it is the truly sensible one based on sound foundations that guarantee the holding of negotiations on a solid base and the arrival at a durable solution. The American initiative is but a step. The question here is whether the United States is able at present to establish a just and lasting peace. I do not think so because it is election time there and during such times, Israel takes great leaps. All the candidates court Israel who takes advantage of this opportunity. America, at present, cannot but carry out Israel's will in these election times. The Soviet initiative is an integrative one, but is facing opposition from Israel and the United States which makes it unachievable.

We now face another matter which is the new electoral balance in Israel that renders any new government a government of inaction. There are many bad elements on the Arab side, including our disunity, our disharmony and our failure to agree on one program based on one plan in accordance with one strategy.

[Question] Is it possible that an Islamic trend will emerge to find a solution to the Middle East crisis?

[Answer] The Islamic peace initiative is the Fez Summit peace initiative. We have adopted it and are ready to work for its implementation if the Arab countries were to draw a plan or a strategy for that.

[Question] What is your opinion about the plan for a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation?

[Answer] We support whatever the Palestinian people decide. If the Palestinians want this plan, we are for it for two reasons: First, on the principle of supporting the Palestinian resistance; and second, on the principle of supporting every federation and every union between fraternal countries by mutual consent.

[Question] There is widespread talk about a role for you in the attempt to return Egypt to the Arab fold.

[Answer] The organization is composed of Arab and non-Arab Islamic countries. As for Egypt's return to the Arab fold, this is being discussed separately with the Arab countries and not within the framework of the Islamic Conference Organization.

[Question] In the organization members' tendencies, do you notice a desire to push Egypt to the Arabs?

[Answer] The predominant tendency in the organization was clearly manifested in Casablanca and you can analyze it in light of the vote which favored returning Egypt to the organization.

[Question] How do you describe your relations with the Arab League?

[Answer] Excellent and friendly. We cooperate within the framework of the United Nations and the international organizations.

12502

CSO: 4404/635

RELIANCE OF CERTAIN INDUSTRIES ON FOREIGN LABOR EXAMINED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 71, 18 Aug 84 p 66

[Article by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Tawwab: "Foreign Labor Replaces Emigrant Workers; Businessmen Prefer Foreigners and Are not Deterred by Fine; Foreign Workers in Egypt Work for Lower Wages, Are Obedient and Do not Cause Businessmen Social Security Problems"]

[Text] Cairo--At a time when the rate of Egyptian braindrain and manpower emigration to the outside world have been rising year after year and at a time when the remittances of this manpower have been increasing, the portion of these remittances flowing through the official channels has been decreasing. This is why the Egyptian Ministry of Economy has organized the biggest propaganda campaign on Egyptian television to urge the Egyptians returning to their homeland to spend their vacation to follow the secure path for making their remittances, namely the path of the accredited money-changing establishments and banks and at the official price, which is 112 piasters per dollar. This is the price with which the policy to partially correct the price of the pound versus the dollar started. However, this price is still far below the black market price which ranges from 120-125 piasters per dollar. This price has not changed according to the dollar supply and demand--a change which is supposed to have happened in the past 3 months. At the same time, the instability in the currency exchange prices and in attracting the remittances of Egyptians and the failure to fully control the direction of these remittances leads ultimately to negative consequences resulting from the emigration of the skilled labor and capable expertise from the Egyptian workforce. Moreover, leaving the remittances in the hands of the black market leads to extremely damaging consequences to the Egyptian national economy. These damages are not confined, of course, to just raising the prices of foreign currencies, led by the dollar and the pound sterling, versus the Egyptian pound. What is more serious than all this is that these large remittances lead to creating successive waves of inflation, with the ordinary Egyptian citizen who has not emigrated and whose sources of income have not changed shouldering the difference in the cost of the emigrant Egyptian labor and the cost of the flaw developing in the Egyptian workforce structure and, consequently, in the prices and wages in the local market.

The volume of the incomes of Egyptians working abroad amounted, according to the latest study by the Specialized National Councils, to 5.6 billion pounds in 1981, with an average annual growth rate of 32 percent in comparison to the volume of the incomes in the mid-1970's. The figure rose to 6.6 billion pounds in 1982 and to 7.2 billion last year and is expected to rise to 9.7 billion pounds next year. But the study asserts that the value of the remittances does not exceed 50 percent the volume of this income. The volume of the remittances amounted to 3,169,000,000 pounds in 1981, to 3,693,000,000 pounds in 1982 and to 4,308,000,000 pounds in 1983 and is expected to rise to 5,446,000,000 pounds next year.

But the dangerous phenomenon does not really lie in the side-effects of the Egyptian manpower emigration to the outside world but in an interesting counter phenomenon embodied in the replacement of the emigrant manpower by foreign labor. This means that the flaw created in the Egyptian work-force structure by the emigration of labor and helped by the circumstances of the unplanned open-door economy had turned Egypt from a country characterized by cheap labor into a labor-exporting, and also labor-importing, country. The number of permits issued by the Egyptian Ministry of Manpower to foreign workers by the end of last year is estimated at 41,000 permits. But the experts assert that the number of foreign workers is possibly double this figure because of the poor control over the business establishments and the numerous loopholes in the laws regulating work for foreigners. Even if this figure is 60,000 only, it still represents a high percentage. This is what has motivated the Egyptian People's Assembly to discuss the burdens of this serious phenomenon and what urged the Egyptian Government to issue legislation requiring all the business establishments, even those with numerous branches, not to have more than 10 percent foreign labor and requiring any foreigner working in Egypt to get a work permit. These permits are not granted unless an Egyptian alternative is not available to fill the job. Even if no Egyptian labor is available in a certain specialization, an establishment is required to appoint two Egyptian assistants to every foreign expert so that they may replace the expert after a period. Preference is also given to the foreigner born and living in Egypt over a foreigner coming from abroad in filling jobs and positions. But these provisions are not implemented completely and this is what is leading to the growing volume of foreign labor in Egypt. Naturally, this is also leading to the increasing remittances of this foreign labor from Egypt to the outside world in the form of dollars. These remittances represent a deduction from the remittances of Egyptians working abroad.

But how do these foreigners enter the Egyptian labor market?

This entry occurs in one of the following ways:

The open-door and joint-investment projects in hotels, tourism and construction projects and banks in which it is required that there be representation of the mother firm or the main bank office at the managerial level.

Obtaining a tourist visa to Egypt which can be renewed for foreigners, including Koreans, Philipinos, Indians, Pakistanis, Turks and Africans, every 3 months. These tourists then proceed to work in the country. The firms that give these tourists work realize that the only loss they can incur is to pay the fine in case their violation is discovered.

Many bakery, restaurant, confectionary and hotel owners, even Egyptians, prefer to employ foreign labor because foreign workers work for relatively lower wages, are obedient and do not create problems for business owners with the social security or with the labor bureaus.

Many students on scholarships from African and Islamic countries proceed to work while studying. They often work without permits and their numbers are not, of course, included in the statistics of the permit records.

There are also large numbers of Sudanese, Libyans and Syrians who work in Egypt. These people can work in the government and the public sector without the need to obtain permits, considering that they have been either born in Egypt or are married to Egyptian women and even though the law considers them foreigners.

However, the foreign labor in Egypt does not pose a danger yet. But the growing flaw in the Egyptian workforce causes concern as to the role this labor can play in the Egyptian economy.

This is why the Egyptian economy and labor experts demand that the Egyptian manpower emigration be streamlined, that its side-effects to the Egyptian economy be tackled and that immediate controls be established on the rate of the flow of foreign labor to replace the emigrant Egyptian labor.

8494
CSO: 4504/402

IRANIANS, LIBYANS LINKED TO RED SEA MINING

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 337, 27 Aug 84 pp 10-12

[Article: "War of Mines: Planners and Executors"]

[Text] Does the campaign of sabotage experienced by the Suez area and Bab el Mandeb come within the framework of a large-scale campaign organized under the supervision of Arab and Iranian circles?

A western report answers positively and reveals the type of mines used in the Red Sea, the nationality of the "technicians" who planted them and the circles that supervised the course of the sabotage operations.

The western report says that two types of mines have been used in this sabotage campaign:

1. Floating mines that surface when ships pass by, damaging these ships but without sinking them. This is actually what happened to most of the ships damaged in the Red Sea.
2. A second type that is totally different and that is planted in the seabed. It is a magnetic type of a mine usually manufactured by the Soviets. This is the type that hit Oceanic Energy, a Thai ship, on the 10th of the current month of August.

It seems, according to the report, that there is an alliance that includes "Arab and Iranian circles" and that seeks to achieve numerous objectives through these acts of terror:

First, hit Saudi Arabia which will be soon receiving Muslim pilgrims and create confusion during the pilgrimage season by way of the Iranian terrorist cells that have become accustomed to creating such troubles during the pilgrimage season.

Second, punish Egypt for its military support for Iraq, reduce Egypt's oil revenues and cast doubt on Egypt's credibility and ability to protect the Suez Canal and the Red Sea.

[Third,] hit the Jordanian economy, obstruct navigation in the Gulf of 'Aqaba, harass the Iraqi oil pipeline planned to be built [through Jordanian territory] and expand the scope of the Iraq-Iran war to include the entire area.

As for the circles behind these acts, the report points the finger at Iran, Libya and Syria specifically:

The supervisors from the Iranian side are Mohsen Rafiq-Dust, the minister of the Revolutionary Guard, and Hoseyn Islamzadeh, the Iranian deputy minister of foreign affairs, both of whom carried out the coordination task during the tours they made in the past 2 months to Damascus and Tripoli.

The Libyan role is embodied, first, in assigning groups loyal to the Libyan regime in the Egyptian city of Qina with the task of supplying Egyptian sailors with the mines planted in the Suez Canal and, second, in entrusting the task of detonating the mines to Libyan technicians who went to Addis Ababa last March to watch the progress of the operations closely.

Some western circles point out, according to this report, that Libya has also used in the acts of sabotage Egyptian elements opposed to President Mubarak.

As for the Syrian role in this large-scale campaign, it has been embodied in the employment of some Palestinian dissident elements to carry out a number of acts of sabotage, keeping in mind that these elements have been receiving training since the middle of 1983 on the hands of East German and Czechoslovak naval technicians to carry out underwater "commando" operations. The report also indicates that Syria has participated in the hijacking of the French airliner, as evidenced by the fact that dissident Palestinians took part in the hijacking.

Western observers expect Iran to play a bigger and more dangerous role in the foreseeable future, especially since there has been increasing talk recently about the movement of Iranian commandos to Europe to plant mines in the Port of Rotterdam and in French ports and about training commandos in Bandar Abbas base to carry out acts of sabotage in the ports of Ra's Tannurah and Jubayl in Saudi Arabia and to try to create troubles where pilgrims are found.

8494

CSO: 4504/402

PROMINENT INTELLECTUAL DISCUSSES LEFTIST PROGRAMS

Tunis HAQA'IQ in Arabic No 44, 31 Aug 84 pp 21-23

[Interview with Lutfi al-Khuli by Hassouna Misbahi: "The Proponents of Arab Unity Are Dreaming of a Miracle That Will Suddenly Be Achieved without Prior Notice!"]

[Text] Mr Lutfi al-Khuli is a symbol of the national progressive movement in Egypt (a leading member of the Egyptian Grouping Party) and one of the most important progressive Egyptian journalists to play an important role in the struggle against backward reactionary thinking inside and outside Egypt. In 1965 he established the Egyptian magazine AL-TALI'AH, which worked to give concrete expression to Arab socialist thinking, resisted ideological fossilization, stood by the masses' struggles in all Arab countries and supported progressive and humanitarian causes in the third world and in the entire world. In spite of the imprisonment and repression Lutfi al-Khuli has experienced because of his ideas, he has remained devoted to the principles of the Egyptian national movement and has continued to go about the Arab world, east and west, introducing Egyptian causes and devoted fighters. In al-Sadat's era, vexations began and the national movement started to feel restrictions. In 1977 AL-TALI'AH magazine was suspended because of an important article Lutfi al-Khuli wrote about the famous people's uprising which struck Egypt in January 1977 after the increases in the prices of basic commodities. Lutfi al-Khuli moved on to Paris and other Arab capitals to fight with great firmness and exceptional ability against the Camp David agreements and the isolation imposed upon Egypt. When progressive and nationalist writers, journalists and intellectuals were imprisoned in Egypt, Lutfi al-Khuli played an important part in the campaign against al-Sadat. During the siege of Beirut, he was in the forefront of Egyptian intellectuals who stood alongside the Palestinian revolution. Two years ago, Lutfi al-Khuli returned to Egypt to share its concerns and preoccupations with the Egyptian national progressive movement, especially following the important events which Egypt went through following the incident of the podium on 6 October 1982 [sic]. The first thing Lutfi al-Khuli did was to work to issue AL-TALI'AH. HAQA'IQ met with him in the Abu Nuwas Hotel, where he is spending his vacation in the company of his family, and this dialogue took place:

[Question] The first issue of AL-TALI'AH magazine was issued in recent months. In your capacity as its first founder, what will its intellectual and political role be in the Egyptian situation and the Arab situation in general?

Lutfi al-Khuli: AL-TALI'AH is an intellectual magazine and its role is that of the political party to which I belong. I believe that its work will primarily be to help give concrete form to the socialist vision and criticize all old and new statements, ideas and experiments in Egypt and the Arab context and in the world as a whole. We, as an editorial family, consider that AL-TALI'AH must be independent in the material sense so that it can be a real, successful podium for all intellectual approaches and so that it can help create a dialogue among them.

When we issued AL-TALI'AH in 1965, the situation was different. Our magazine was issued by the al-Ahram organization. However, now, when we issued the first issue, we relied on the material support of our readers and people who sympathize with us; in every future issue of AL-TALI'AH we will publish details on this support. This is because it is necessary that AL-TALI'AH magazine be totally independent so that it will continue to be a magazine for the general approach it has defended and is defending. We are now facing many new challenges inside and outside Egypt. Since 1977, many changes have occurred. We are now facing an economic and political situation of much complexity. Al-Sadat linked Egypt to world imperialism through the Camp David agreement and in the economic context he struck down domestic capital and encouraged parasites and opportunists to destroy the domestic economy; in this he succeeded to a large extent. Among the other investigations will be the issue of democracy and its political and social dimensions. In the sixties, this issue was forbidden; the political leaders, nationalistic and non-nationalistic, considered that democracy corrupted development and national unity and obstructed the struggle against imperialism and Zionism. Now, it has been proved that this sort of statement is basically wrong and that the masses cannot play their part in full if they are watched, repressed and suppressed.

We are reissuing AL-TALI'AH in this overall context. We will seek to present these forbidden questions, that is, the questions we have become accustomed not to get close to and to be afraid of facing through ideological paralysis, to ourselves first of all and to all national and progressive movements in the Arab world. I believe that the origin of this ideological paralysis lies in the inability to distinguish between the general and the particular. We have taken liberal and socialist statements which have appeared in Europe and have applied them mechanically to our situation. This is the great danger, since after a period of time we found ourselves incapable of innovating and changing, changing our situation, our thinking, our platform and our method of living in general. We consider that it is necessary to distinguish between general laws and special laws and we must understand the distinctive features of our situation and discover their hidden features so that we will not become lost in mazes and will not live parasitically off European socialist and liberal thought. We have not distinguished, for example, between nation and state. We have talked about unity but so far we have not given concrete form to a clear vision of this unity. The Arab proponents of unity

dream of a miracle which will be realized suddenly, without prior notice. They will wake up and find the Arab state in being, from the Atlantic to the Gulf. This is the true, exemplary thinking which causes the collapse of unions which are established from time to time between one country and another. We, through our magazine, will criticize everything and will present all questions, sometimes in a provocative manner, so that we can end up in a new intellectual situation.

[Question] How will you be able to present these burning questions of yours in the Arab context, especially since Egypt is experiencing isolation in the Arab context?

Lutfi al-Khuli: What isolation, sir? It seems as if isolation has become something imposed on Egypt and the Egyptian people by the Arabs. We are not suffering from isolation; we know that one absolutely cannot isolate Egypt from its geographic environment, which is the Arab world. The problem is that the Arab countries, especially the conservative ones, have given the Baghdad resolutions an erroneous interpretation. That means that they have not separated the boycott of the regime from the people. The result is that Egyptian struggles on the political, social or intellectual level are no longer known in the Arab countries. This is my opinion, and we will also try to criticize these statements which we once considered premises which could not be changed or altered under any circumstances. When we issued AL-TALI'AH at the beginning, our job from the political standpoint was to support the national economic and political measures which 'Abd-al-Nasir carried out. Our intellectual job was to try to create progressive socialist Arab thinking. In the current stage, as I said, since many negative changes have occurred, we will fight against them and against the capitulationist thinking and the thinking which parasitic groups that are hostile to the aspirations of the masses are circulating. These were the basic foundation on which al-Sadat concentrated when he signed the Camp David agreement. We will also deeply and radically criticize all previous experiments, Egyptian and Arab, and will try to determine the ailment that has obstructed the process of revolutionary and national change. The other important issue to which we will address ourselves is the issue of Arab unity, especially following the emergence of this emotional, folkloric notion of unity. This work of ours will basically be aimed at the building of a new Egyptian and Arab force to break the blockade around Arab man, his convictions and his freedoms, and to break the blockade around the whole nation and the Palestinian revolution, which is suffering more from an Arab blockade than from an Israeli one.

[Question] You spoke about the political role AL-TALI'AH will play, but you have not yet clearly spelled the intellectual role out to us.

Lutfi al-Khuli: I have been talking for some time about the struggles the Egyptian masses have been waging against the parasites, Camp David, the departure from Arab ranks and the danger of backsliding, which were great and brought down al-Sadat and imposed a new situation. If I say that Egypt is not isolated from the Arab situation but that there are people who are isolating it or trying to maintain its isolation, I say frankly that Egyptian society is one of the most dynamic Arab societies on all levels. There is nothing now in Egypt that is not subject to criticism, from the president to

the policeman on his rounds, from bread to the Camp David agreement. Therefore I can assert that what is really being subjected to isolation is progressive action in the direction of unity to which we must give concrete form so that we will be able to stand up to everything that is besieging us domestically and abroad. There is an imperialist scheme which aims at having Egypt be an Arab country, albeit one that is not active in the Arab situation; the Arabs, instead of fighting against this scheme in well thought out ways, have settled for emotional condemnation and that is the ultimate in the thinking of despair.

[Question] What changes has the Egyptian national movement carried out since the assassination of al-Sadat?

Lutfi al-Khuli: One of the discussions going on now, in the opposition at least, in open sessions, is the following: Is there a distinction between what is called politically the institution of the president, which Husni Mubarak heads, and the institution of the government and the institution of the party which the al-Sadatists are dominating, or are these institutions a single bloc among which there is absolutely no difference at all? The power of the people to present issues from the ground up has become a magnificent thing, something that does not exist as far as most Arab countries go. As regards the other subject, which is the subject of making a distinction between al-Sadat's period and that of Husni Mubarak, I can say that Husni Mubarak from the subjective standpoint does not resemble al-Sadat, and secondly Husni Mubarak was brought up in the institution of the Egyptian armed forces and it is well known that this institution considers that there is a major contradiction between itself and colonialism, that a vendetta exists between it and the Zionist entity which has not been settled yet, and that al-Sadat struck down this vendetta when he struck down the October 1973 war.

Husni Mubarak is trying to improve the Egyptian economy, restore respectability to planning and the public sector and fight the Palestinians [sic]. From the political standpoint, he has eliminated some, I would not say all, restrictions on the nationalist and progressive forces, removed them from the prisons al-Sadat put them in and given them a chance to express their presence through papers and magazines. In the Arab context, Husni Mubarak restored recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization as a sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, guaranteed the safety of the Palestinian forces when they left Tripoli, and suspended the autonomy negotiations which contradicted the right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state. Husni Mubarak also restored relations with the Soviet Union and refused to give the United States of America a military base. He started to pursue the policy of nonalignment, whereas al-Sadat had sought to have Egypt become a part of American strategy. It would be a mistake if we did not acknowledge this difference between al-Sadat and Husni Mubarak and if we did not encourage all initiatives which would help eliminate the al-Sadat period. I can say that the process of change is one that is connected not to a person but rather to a mass movement as a whole, through an understanding of the rules of the struggle in the private and public context.

[Question] It is well known that you are a journalist who is knowledgeable about the inner secrets of the Palestinian revolution. What are your expectations regarding the coming Palestinian national conference?

Lutfi al-Khuli: The national conference will be a critical one, one of the most important conferences the Palestinian revolution has experienced. I believe that it will be held on schedule, and I believe that the secession which occurred inside the Palestinian revolution has failed totally and that it will not be able to carry out its design, which has the aim basically of fragmenting Palestinian ranks.

11887

CSO: 4504/442

SITUATION UNDER HAIDALLA'S PRESIDENCY EXAMINED

Dakar AFRICA in French No 163, Jul-Aug 84 pp 23-26

[Article by Moriba Magassouba: "Haidalla's Crusade"]

[Text] "You're a journalist? Just a moment, please." I had however completed all of the police and customs formalities and was preparing to leave the airport building to look for a taxi. The noncommissioned officer, a lanky black with laughing eyes, had taken my passport from me again with total indifference to my displeasure. He disappeared for a good quarter of an hour before returning to ask me to wait until the police commissioner at the airport, presumably busy with other matters, could be found. I saw him returning a half hour later, not in the least in a hurry, and still as smiling as ever.

"You're lucky," he told me as he handed me my passport. "The commissioner isn't there."

"You're lucky!" I stood there flabbergasted, my furious desire to punch him in the face or insult him suddenly gone.

"Don't worry about it," a young policeman as black as the other, who had obviously been watching the proceedings from the beginning, said to me in an aside. "You know," he went on as if by way of excuse, "we are a little on edge just now. You have to understand." He said nothing more. "Understand!" If anyone needed understanding it was indeed I, for I was totally lost! And to think the Mauritanian police are generally so amiable! "Yes, you have to understand," a waiter in the Hotel Chinquetti agreed as he served me a tamarind juice which barely served to moisten my throat, which was already, like my nostrils, clogged with dust. And it was he, a Senegalese (there are many in the hotel and restaurant business) who blamed the "recent events" which, he said, have "created a great deal of tension."

Indeed, when landing at the airport in Nouakchott 4 years after my first visit to the Mauritanian capital, I knew that, several years earlier, the government had announced the uncovering of a "plot" involving "pro-Libyan" elements. This was the last in a long series of "plots" which had led the authorities to make forceful accusations against the "pro-Iraqi," "pro-Iranian," "pro-Moroccan" and "pro-Polisario Front" elements in society (journalists, high government officials, cadres, former ministers or high-ranking officers), whose arrest and imprisonment have won Mauritania the sad privilege of a place on the lists of Amnesty International.

Tension? It is perceptible more or less everywhere if you so much as set foot outside, braving the sandy wind which adds considerably to the poor impression made by a reception of the coolest kind, during a particularly merciless dog days season. The olive drab uniform of the military or the turquoise blue of the policeman is the basis of the decor in the streets. In no way has it the aspect of a deployment of forces, but the fact imposes itself on the eye and the mind. In the administrative offices (we went to pay a courtesy visit to a friend serving in a department of the Ministry of Information who, in embarrassment, carefully avoided introducing us to his colleagues), there is neither joy nor good humor. The elimination of the tea ritual in the administration following a circular issued in October 1982 by President Haidalla doubtless had something to do with the somber atmosphere, but it does not explain it all. The employees are not yet spying on each other, but there is careful avoidance of talking "politics." According to a young man I met in the bar of my hotel, who claimed to be "in business," Mauritians have all become snitches! (I learned later from someone who had seen me deep in conversation with my "businessman" that the fellow in question was in fact a "cop of the worst kind," and on top of that a relative of the head of the detective force.

Amputations

Without a doubt, the most cheerful Mauritians I had known were obviously seriously affected by gloom. A technician in a large computer firm in Dakar, a regular visitor at the hotel, complained to me that he could no longer drink his cocktail in the bar in peace without becoming the target of the sharp stares of his fellow Muslims. The application of the "charia" is seen not only in the occasional execution of individuals guilty of crimes of blood or the amputation of thieves' hands, but also in the prohibition on selling alcohol to citizens. Because he failed to understand this, a Malian national named Keita who ran a "clando" (speakeasy) was beaten to death by the police. As a posthumous consolation, the neighborhood, the scene of his criminal activities, was named after this unhappy fellow.

Fear, it cannot be denied, seems to have won out over the legendary boldness of the Mauritians who, it was said, feared only the punishment of Allah. "Fear is too strong a term," a friend of mine highly placed in the national electricity company (SONOLEC) commented to me. "Let us say instead apprehension, which is not quite the same thing." This was a question of semantics which was not of very great interest to another man I never saw a second time. In his case, it was a very good bet that it was the instinct of self-preservation which came into play to offset the risk there might be in talking with the journalist. The lobby of the hotel which in the recent past had been the daily setting for the rough but most engaging debates by a part of the intelligentsia of Mauritania is now "occupied" by citizens of a certain age whose stoutness reveals their social status as "businessmen," more concerned with figures (although there is a horror of accounting!) than chitchat.

Mauritania, the police state, then? Indeed.

The opposition to the regime of Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haidalla, the most active and the best-structured element in which remains the Alliance for a

Democratic Mauritania (AMD) is hardly bothered by the understatement reporting "assassinations, torture, massive arrests and the holding of numerous Mauritanian citizens without trial." It is said in these circles that three individuals, including a young high school student of 16 from the city of Atar, died as a result of torture. We personally learned from one of intimates that Khoury Ould H'meity, the secretary general of the Workers Union of Mauritania (UTM), who was arrested last March in connection with a "Libyan plot," is in sad condition after the harsh third degree to which he was subjected at the time of his arrest. I was told he has not yet been allowed to see a doctor as, it appears, he expressed the wish to do. The same sources, that is to say in the opposition, estimate the number of political prisoners in Mauritania at "several hundred" (between 300 and 500).

While these figures for the most part still require verification, the fact nonetheless remains that the extent of repression has reached such proportions that Amnesty International has drawn its bead on the regime in Mauritania and has launched a world campaign which it appears is likely to have certain repercussions. While stating that they are "disturbed" by the Amnesty International campaign, which is doing serious damage to the image of the country at a time when it is faced with a serious drought and is placed in the uncomfortable position of petitioning for aid, the Mauritanian authorities protest against a "poison campaign" which they say is orchestrated by "certain Mauritanian citizens in collusion with foreign powers and ready, as individuals or as groups, to obey the orders received from these foreign powers." A high official in the Ministry of Finance en route to an assignment in Paris whom I talked with on the plane explained the repression in terms of "the urgent need to guarantee domestic stability, an absolute prerequisite, with the return of peace to the region, for an economic upsurge in the country." In the eyes of the supporters of the regime, such as the professor at the National School of Administration whom I met during a seminar at the University of Oran in Algeria, this urgent need for development "legitimizes" repression, which has "mercenaries and traitors to the nation" as its targets. Stability? This word hardly seemed to figure, until very recently, in the political vocabulary of the country, which since the military came to power on July 1978 has experienced some nine purge efforts or "palace revolutions" (four successes against five failures), three chiefs of state and six cabinet reorganizations (the last being that of 8 March 1984, during which the post of prime minister was eliminated).

Confidence does not by any means prevail on the state summit level. It is true that Lt Col Ould Haidalla, when he decided on 4 January 1980 to assume formally, as president of the republic, the power he had had in fact since 31 May 1979 when he was appointed to the post of prime minister, replacing Col Ould Bouceif, who died in a plane accident off Dakar, put a definitive end to the two-headed nature of the executive branch.

This man, a dyed-in-the wool nationalist who lacks neither courage nor energy, and whose undeniable integrity is recognized by all, as is his high sense of duty, undertook a certain number of steps immediately on taking over in May 1979 which, at the time, could not fail to stimulate imagination. For example, thanks to the Algiers agreement of 5 August 1979, he succeeded in

extricating his country from a ruinous and unpopular war without losing face. But it was with the abolition of slavery on 5 July 1980, representing a major psychological break with a degrading medieval practice unworthy of a modern nation which advocated equality and justice, that the new regime showed its very definite determination to move forward. Using its momentum, the chief of state, having no personal ambition at that time, he said, "except to serve his country," announced that the country would soon return to a normal constitutional life with the initial drafting of a proposed constitution and the formation of a civil government.

This draft constitution which called for an unlimited multiparty system, the election of the president of the republic by universal balloting for a 6-year term, with reelection limited to one time, the election of deputies to the national assembly for a legislature with a 4-year term, and the nomination by the chief of state of a prime minister chosen from the majority party or coalition and responsible to the parliament, was never to see the light of day. The civil government installed in the month of December of that same year under the direction of Sid Ahmed Ould Bneijara, who had until his appointment to the post of prime minister been civil governor of the Nouakchott region, and who was entrusted with "preparing the ground," was abruptly dismissed on 19 April 1981, to be replaced the next day by a team headed by Col Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya. What happened in the meantime to explain this sudden reversal?

On 16 March, a pro-Moroccan commando unit led by Lt Col Ould Kader, who was Bouceif's right arm, attempted a takeover by force, attacking the office of the presidency and the headquarters of the Military Committee for National Salvation (CMSN). The result of the raid was a complete failure, but also, for the first time in the history of the country, men were ordered executed. With the deaths of the two men responsible for the raid, including Lieutenant Colonel Kader, the Mauritanian regime wrote finis in blood to a long tradition characterized by respect for human life, whatever the nature of the crimes committed.

Libyans

In the minds of many Mauritanian officers who were members of the CMSN, and they did not hesitate to state it loudly and clearly, the premature return to civilian government had of itself made the 16 March raid possible. In their view, there was clear proof that the country was not yet ready to return to a normal constitutional life, in view of the threats hanging over it, with which, according to them, no civilian government could cope. This was what basically explained the radicalization of the regime after the failure of the commando raid, a radicalization which was reflected beginning on 12 April in the establishment of the Mass Organization and Education Structures (SEM), the embryo, although the military denied it, of the future single Mauritanian party, and in the establishment of a government by Mr Taya, known for his energy and strength of character. The arrival of Colonel Qadhdhafi in Nouakchott a bare 24 hours after the installation of the new team was not to relax the atmosphere. The leader of the Jamahariya, who had not come to preach moderation, was given a frenzied welcome. The situation was a far cry

from the cooling relations between the two countries evidenced in the expulsion in December of 1980 of three Libyan diplomats suspected of responsibility for the student and schoolchildren's rebellion.

But the radicalization was to go hand in hand with repression. The opposition of all hues intermingled hardened its tone and the AMD, which had sent a veritable declaration of war to the regime and which was in fact the force behind the frustrated 16 March 1981 raid, proved particularly active in France, and above all in Senegal and Morocco. The domestic opposition, seeking to mobilize forces in student and trade union circles, but also within the armed forces, did not lay down its weapons either. The end of 1981 and the year 1982, which saw an attempted coup d'etat and an effort to assassinate Haidalla, were to see the launching of a wave of arrests in every sector.

Deficit

On 5 March 1982, or in other words only a month after the attempted putsch on the night of 6-7 February, the former chief of state, Col Mohamed Ould Salek, and the former prime minister, Sidi Ahmed Bneijara, were sentenced by the special court to 10 years' forced labor. On a continent where one's life is at stake for this kind of "crime," some would say that this was not a high price to pay. But the fact that the sentence was related in some way to a "regime of harsh detention in which the prisoners never see the light of day and have no human contact except with the individual who brings their food" involves something more than simple deprivation in freedom, inasmuch as it represents a serious threat to the physiological condition or psychic balance of those subjected to such a regime.

Less than 2 months later, on 17 March, nearly 100 persons, including bankers (about 20), journalists (10 or so), businessmen and cadres were arrested, this time in connection with a "pro-Baath plot". The majority of these individuals, including Mohamed Yehdi Ould Breidellil, a former minister and secretary general of the presidency; Khalid Ould Enahoui, former editor of the national daily newspaper EL CHAAB; and Mohamed Ould Hamadi, former press adviser to President Haidalla, were to receive heavy sentences to forced labor (11 convictions) by the special court on 4 October 1983, for "attacking the domestic and foreign security of the state and attempted murder of the chief of state."

It is true that during the same period, the regime adopted several more liberal measures, in particular in May 1982, a few days prior to the "technical visit" paid by Francois Mitterrand on the night of 25-26 May, releasing 10 political prisoners who were former central administration directors, and on 28 November of that same year, some leading personalities in the old regime were released.

This slight relaxation did not however prevent the regime from striking again in December 1983, with the sentencing of Col Silman Soumare, accused of misappropriation of public funds, and Commission Mamadou Ly, both former ministers, to house arrest for "activities likely to damage national unity" (for

which read regional or racist activities, since the two individuals charged were blacks), and tens of individuals, including the secretary general of the UTM, were arrested in connection with a "pro-Libyan plot."

Firm Grip

The regime which knows it is threatened has absolutely no intention of lowering its guard. Seizures by the police and supervised house arrest have become current practices. The economic difficulties related to the drought (last year saw the greatest rainfall shortage since 1904), with a deficit of almost 70 percent in agropastoral production, with the slump in iron on a paralyzed international market, the persistence of the budget deficit (a little more than 2 billion ouguiyas in 1983) and the poor results obtained by state companies, practically all of them showing a deficit, are certainly not likely to lead Lieutenant Colonel Haidalla's regime to loosen its grip, and in this man of determination and great confidence, there is a grim will to combat the deviations he wants to root out of the Mauritanian society to increase respect. It is not really a caricature of the political program of the regime to say that it is based on two symbols: tea and taxes. The elimination of the former in administrative premises and the desire to bring the latter into the state coffers are in fact the symbols of the battle Khouna Ould Haidallah plans to wage with a crusader's ardor, against "such harmful phenomena as laziness, idleness, a preference for the easy way, the unbridled race toward illicit enrichment at the expense of the national collective, in a word, the lack of civic spirit." In this battle for the multifaceted development of Mauritania which has literally to do with ethics, a battle directed against those he believes are his enemies, the Mauritanian chief of state says he can rely on the "overwhelming majority" of his people. The failure of the attempted coups d'etat directed against him may perhaps strengthen this feeling in him. But the versatile character of any people, and that of Mauritania is no exception to the rule, is a factor he should take into account. For the time being, this man is making every effort to break any movement of opposition to his policy. It is a style of government. It is not certain that it is a proper policy.

5157

CSO: 4519/244

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI'S POSITION SEEN DETERIORATING

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 337, 27 Aug 84 pp 20-22

[Article by Richard Lewis: "Between Islam and Dictatorship"]

[Text] British journalist Richard Lewis returned from a full month's visit to the Sudan and wrote this special article for AL-DUSTUR about the current situation there.

Last week's announcement about the uncovering of another plot to assassinate President Numayri by elements belonging to an Arab country did not surprise observers who follow developments in the political crisis the Sudanese regime is suffering, nor were they surprised by its failure.

Throughout his 15-year rule, President Numayri has foiled several attempts to assassinate him. It was expected that Numayri--whose regime has been subjected to several coup attempts which is nothing to boast about--would not disclose some of these attempts and would block out those indicators that point to his unpopularity. However, Numayri found it beneficial, rather necessary, for his press to afford these plots hatched by his opponents much attention.

While it is not strange that the American embassy was one of the targets the plotters were planning to hit--and this may be true--it has become evident that Numayri, who planned to use this allegation to maintain American support for his regime, was forced to brandish the foreign threat to pressure his American ally.

The United States is very worried about foreign initiatives in the Horn of Africa and looks upon the Sudan as the western stronghold in the area. Moreover, its aid to the Sudanese regime, including the \$200 million in annual aid, falls within its geopolitical perception of the area.

However, there are apparently strong indications that suggest that America has begun to doubt Numayri's ability to play the role assigned to him. How can a leader who kindled a new civil war and whose policy has prompted discontent and resentment throughout the country be a useful ally to western global strategy.

Logically, the answer is in the negative. This in addition to the recent nervousness in Washington about continued support for a regime based on suppression and barbarism by applying laws unjustifiably called Islamic Shari'ah laws and interpreting them in its own special way.

Thus, America, just like Sudan's other main ally, Egypt, began distancing itself from the president.

Although America is granting the Sudanese regime huge aid, it failed to persuade Numayri to modify his policy and make an effort to unify the country. America went so far as to consider Numayri the tail that wags the dog, something the Americans felt was embarrassing and futile.

Following the withdrawal of Egyptian and American aid, Numayri found himself alone in confronting the opposition that has escalated its struggle within the Sudan. President Numayri wanted to show the Sudanese people, by imposing a state of emergency on 21 April and enacting new laws granting him absolute powers, that he was determined to rule by force after he failed to rule by consent, the consent he completely lost in south Sudan last year and gradually frittered away in the north.

But in the wake of the strike by doctors, treasurers and accountants last March and April, Numayri lost all his friends, including the Muslim Brotherhood elements he is trying to court right now.

The strikes organized by the opposition organization, the "Sudanese People's Grouping," which includes the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party (Sudanese region), the Democratic Unionist Party Waliy-al-Din al-Mahdi, the SANO Party and others, added to the threat of a strike by engineers, left their economic and political mark.

Sensing the danger and social repercussions of such strikes in the industrial sector, Numayri declared 5 months ago a constant state of emergency to impose his authority any way he could. It was soon discovered that that was the main purpose of this step of his.

When the strikes were over, it became evident that most of those brought before the recently-established emergency court martials were members of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party (Sudanese region) and were subject to torture, such as pharmacist 'Uthman al-Shaykh and Miss 'Awatif 'Abd-al-Rahman.

Since the army was garrisoned in its barracks wondering why it was there, it had to be given something to do. Thus materialized the policy of applying the so-called Islamic Shari'ah, Numayri style, to Sudanese society through arbitrary operations undertaken by the army, the police and the secret security service without any justification. Individuals as well as groups were being besieged and arrested. When I was driving my car through the streets of Khartoum, I saw soldiers on the side of a street surrounding a group of baffled people.

One detainee told me that he was on his way to work when he was stopped by soldiers. Since he did not have his I.D. with him, he was arrested and taken with another group of citizens to a gathering point where he had to stay until next morning without questioning. Later after he told the soldiers that he wanted to go to work, they asked him only one question which was: "How much money do you have on you?" He showed them a 5-pound note which they took and let him go.

Incidents such as this are innumerable. The general impression in Khartoum is that the security forces do not know what they are looking for or whom they are after. Cars are stopped and searched and their owners persecuted. People are stopped in the street and asked to produce their I.D. after which they are let go.

All this produced--and perhaps that was the intention--an atmosphere of fear and terror. Khartoum is living now through a time of confusion and uncertainty. Citizens are encouraged to inform against their friends and neighbors.

Even citizens who have a clear conscience because they have not committed any kind of violations live in a constant state of disconcertment for fear of being pursued by the authorities on trumped-up charges and severely punished.

There is no indication that orders come from above. Those arrested soon find out the minute they are arrested that they had committed a violation. All citizens are seized with uncertainty. The only thing that is clear to them is that they face a whimsical president who enforces a strange legal system. They cannot even consult the Koran to ascertain what is permissible and what is not because they are all sure that Numayri's omnipotence and proclamation of the Shari'ah have nothing to do with the true teachings of the Prophet's Sunna.

There is a true feeling of injustice among those Sudanese Muslims who believe that Numayri has distorted Islam. This feeling of injustice manifests itself in their embarrassment when they talk to foreigners. "This is not Islam, this is dictatorship," is what they say.

The regime's repression notwithstanding, people go on with their criticism. Such criticism directed against the regime often comes from people who are not embarrassed to admit that they had supported President Numayri.

Therefore, what future awaits the Sudanese people?

Most of those who voiced their opinion agreed that the Numayri regime cannot go on like that and that "something has to happen soon." Perhaps there is where the weak points come to light. Everyone wants to get rid of Numayri's regime and everyone believes that it will be done soon, but no one has declared outright how and through whom this goal is to be achieved.

Assassination attempts are always a possibility, and last week's attempt by three officers who slipped into the presidential palace with the aim of assassinating the president is the most recent proof of that.

Another possibility is that popular wrath and the worsening economic situation will create a state of anarchy similar to the one that brought about the 1964 October revolution.

Things were going in that direction during the strikes the Sudanese Popular grouping organized in Sudan last spring. However, Numayri has shut this door for the time being by declaring a state of emergency.

It is likely that Numayri will not be able to soothe popular anger if a rice price hike and the application of the mandatory measures demanded by the IMF created an acute crisis.

Only then will Numayri realize that his loss of American support will be fatal.

Although Reagan has pledged that the IMF will not exercise great pressure on Sudan, he is likely, if he wishes, to abandon Numayri and allow the IMF to impose more mandatory restrictions on Sudan during the negotiations concerning the restructuring of Sudan's \$9 billion foreign debt.

Under such circumstances and in light of a popular wrath that will intensify with the seriousness of the economic crisis, any well-contrived attempt at overthrowing Numayri can succeed.

All economic indicators point to the fact that the Sudanese economy will continue to decline before a recovery can be anticipated, something next to impossible since it seems that the estimates the IMF used in its evaluation of the beginning of a Sudanese economic recovery were very optimistic.

Furthermore, it has become a certainty that the pumping of oil in the south will stop for a long time because of Numayri's policies that have once again opened the civil war wounds, not to mention that the American Chevron Company is seriously thinking of pulling out of Sudan and resuming its activities after the civil war.

Oil has played a significant role in the World Bank's computations. However, it appears that oil will be taken out of this equation totally, and without it, the Sudanese economy cannot answer the questions that will be posed by the lenders.

Despite the fact that World Bank reports projected a 5 percent increase in Sudanese exports and no more than a 2 percent increase in imports, these figures seem unattainable.

Moreover, the improvement in cotton production in irrigated areas notwithstanding, production in rainfall areas dropped considerably because of

the drought. This created a wave of farmers migrating from rain areas and their return to their original areas will take many years to accomplish.

Regarding the 2 percent limit on imports, it seems that this step is groundless. Although the list of imports has become shorter, it has nonetheless grown in the field of corruption. It is widely-known in Khartoum nowadays that for 2,000 Sudanese pounds anyone can get a license to import contraband.

There is a feeling of dispondency among Sudanese businessmen. Most investments have stopped and all businessmen are nervous and apprehensive about the terms of the trade exchange law enacted in March and the new measures under the name of "the Alms law."

The general impression in Sudan at the present time is that President Numayri has ignored the true state of the economy for the sake of a principle he did not bother to study carefully.

As for the economic, political and social circles, the prevalent feeling there is that Sudan's future has already been sacrificed for the application of the president's distorted view of Islam.

On the other hand, the Sudanese People's Grouping, which represents the true opposition to the [present] Sudanese regime, has spearheaded a serious struggle to set up an alternative independent of any other foreign forces.

12502

CSO: 4504/435

OIL MINISTER COMMENTS ON PIPELINE PROJECTS, OIL DEVELOPMENTS

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1 Jun 84 p 3

/Excerpts/ In the minds of everyone, friends and enemies alike, the nationalization of oil is one of the greatest of battles with unique characteristics in terms of the nature and size of powers that enter its fray, and in terms of the impact and repercussions left by the battle domestically--on the country that truly owns the resources--regionally, and internationally. Enlistment of the masses--a prerequisite to entering the battle of nationalization--takes on greater dimensions as such enlistment becomes a permanent awakening which contributes to the accomplishment of the mission of economic advancement and development. At the same time, it represents an indivisible part of public national awareness and increases the level of preparedness to confront any contingencies and fight any likely battles imposed by the powers of monopolistic imperialism and those who serve its goals and schemes in the area.

On the regional and international levels, the impact of the nationalization of oil has been felt amazingly quickly and continuously because nationalization has opened the door to a new era of relations between the owners and plunderers of the resources.

The completion of nationalization on 1 June 1972 demonstrates this, since it brought about a withdrawal from similar experiments in our region and the entire Third World. Nationalization became a factor in challenging the most arrogant strongholds of the imperialists and monopolies on our planet and has resulted in additional, renewable, valuable gains, especially in light of the leadership's ability to impose the glorious victory in record time on 1 March 1973 and then pursue a course of comprehensive social and economic development, which has come to represent a model emulated by the developing world.

In light of these truths, it was inevitable that hostile forces would resort to a continuing escalation of campaigns of maneuvering and encirclement, covert and overt conspiracies, and direct and indirect conspiracies. The observer does not find it particularly difficult here to point out the role played by the hostile war imposed on our people by the expansionist, racist Iranian regime in fulfillment of hostile priorities and designs against the local and pan-Arab region.

We raised these topics and others to form, in terms of accomplishments and evidence, the substance of our interview with Minister of Oil Mr Qasim Ahmad Taqi. In addition, we focused on new developments in the area of pipeline projects for marketing Iraqi gas and oil abroad.

Oil Sector Accomplishments Continue

/Question/ It is well known that the decision and victory of nationalization destroyed many of the monopolistic myths about the inability of oil-producing countries to manage oil operations and build a comprehensive national oil industry. What are the most outstanding accomplishments achieved by the oil sector in this regard?

/Answer/ National technical cadres and assets entered the fray of management and implementation of oil operations before the decision to nationalize on 1 June 1982. Through direct investment, a primary extraction facility was built. In addition, the refineries and other facilities that existed at that time were run by Iraqi engineers, technicians and workers. Nationalization, in its turn, contributed to providing increased opportunities to develop the national oil industry, in terms of both extraction and refining, at a pace not experienced by any Third World country that has gone through a similar experience. Iraqi technical cadre and experts participated creatively and innovatively, not only in the comprehensive management of oil industry operations, but in raising the quality of performance and improving the quality and quantity of production. In the field of direct investment, tremendous accomplishments were achieved, especially on the level of exploitation of the field north of al-Ramilah and a number of fields spread from the north to the south of Iraq. Most of the nationally owned drilling equipment was operated by a young and qualified Iraqi cadre that proved its ability to record a high level of achievement in terms of fulfilling plans for drilling various kinds of wells--exploratory, test, and development. In addition to discovering new fields, hidden areas and exploratory fields were evaluated. Development activities were conducted with a high level of skill, and seismic surveys continued to be conducted. In fact, 100 percent of the surveys scheduled were carried out by the national oil company, whereas before the war no more than 50 percent of scheduled goals were achieved. This fact has led to an increase in the quantity of confirmed Iraqi petroleum reserves to more than 65 billion barrels, whereas before the number was no higher than 34 billion barrels. These reserves are expected to exceed 100 billion barrels in the near future.

Regarding pipelines, Iraq has been able to complete and begin operation of two large projects, including the strategic pipeline that links the southern fields to the northern fields and has the capability of double-pumping from north to south and vice versa. This line provides great marketing flexibility. The planning and monitoring of the construction stages were carried out directly by the leadership of the party and the revolution and by the leader and struggler, President Saddam Husayn. The length of the line is 810 km. The project was accomplished in record time in comparison with similar types of projects around the world. In addition, the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline, which is currently especially important, was completed.

After these projects were completed, efforts continued to increase and diversify export options to avoid exposure to pressure and robbery from fraudulent regimes, in particular the regime of Hafiz al-Asad. We have made great progress up to now in finding the necessary additional alternatives so that we can export Iraqi crude oil with a very high level of flexibility.

Based on the principal of ideal exploitation of the country's natural resources, the Iraq National Oil Company is cooperating with the Ministry of Oil and its departments to set up a number of projects to utilize associated natural gas, which was flared and wasted during the era of the monopolistic companies before nationalization. In addition, the leadership of the party and the revolution has devoted intense interest to oil refining operations, and productive capacity in this regard has multiplied several times. Meanwhile, several comprehensive production and services projects have been completed, the foremost being two huge factories for manufacturing oil equipment such as heat exchangers, spare parts, storage tanks, liquefied petroleum gas cylinders, refineries for producing motor oils, and units for producing various types of paints. Also, a large facility was completed for extracting sulfur from gas. Iraqi technical cadres and experts have come up with innovations and initiatives which go beyond the limits of serving the national economy and supporting the battle we have waged against the racist, expansionist aggressors.

Completing the loop of national oil production, the Iraq National Oil Company owns, through its shipping organization, a huge fleet of crude oil tankers that includes 15 tankers with a total capacity of about 1.5 million dead weight tons. These tankers are currently operated on a commercial basis at a time when many tankers are being used for transporting petroleum products.

New Pipeline Developments

/Question/ Public opinion at home and abroad is monitoring the phases of implementation of the new pipelines for exporting oil and gas and the expansion of the Iraq-Turkey pipeline. What is new in this regard?

/Answer/ The second stage of expansion of the Iraq-Turkey crude oil pipeline is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of next July. Export capacity through this line will reach 1 million barrels per day.

Concerning the Iraq-Turkey gas pipeline, agreement was reached, in accordance with the report of the previous session of the Turkish-Iraqi Joint Commission, for all concerned Turkish and Iraqi organizations to undertake this project. A joint study will be prepared by an international engineering firm to determine the economic and engineering feasibility and to estimate the capital costs for both parts of the project: the Iraqi and Turkish parts of the pipeline. A joint working team from both countries, in cooperation with the engineering consulting firm, will determine the features of the required study and will undertake a final evaluation of the study's conclusions.

We hope that this evaluation will lead to the proper decision in this matter, keeping in mind that the project's goal is to export Iraqi liquefied petroleum gas from Turkish ports on the Mediterranean Sea with a capacity of 3 million tons annually.

Concerning the Iraqi-Saudi crude oil pipeline, the Saudi side has signed a memorandum of understanding for the implementation of the first stage of this project. In addition, we have contracted with an international engineering company to undertake the technical design and supervision of the project in cooperation with the General Organization for Oil Projects.

Currently the project is in the stage of inviting international contracting companies that have experience in the field of laying pipelines to submit their bids. We hope to award part of the first stage of this vital and strategic project between the middle and end of this August, and we expect to complete this stage within 1 year.

Naturally, the capacity of this project will increase Iraq's crude oil production and export capability. During the first phase, capacity will reach 550,000 barrels per day. Meanwhile, an Iraqi engineering cadre is working with the contracted engineering consulting firm to complete the plans for the second phase whose goal is to achieve an export capacity of 80 million tons annually, or about 1.6 million barrels per day.

Regarding the Iraqi-Jordanian pipeline, a letter of agreement has been signed between the two fraternal parties for cooperation in completing the project, and we are now holding talks with an international engineering company that submitted a bid for the project.

We hope that through detailed coordination and sincere cooperation between Iraq and fraternal Jordan we will reach a final decision for the implementation of this project whose goal is to provide an export capacity of 1 million barrels of crude oil per day and to provide al-Zahra' refinery in fraternal Jordan with its crude oil needs for domestic consumption.

It is worth nothing that the Ministry of Oil and its departments concerned have held a series of meetings with the Jordanian side which have been characterized by a spirit of sincere cooperation and a strong desire to serve the interests of the two fraternal countries in the area of strengthening the oil industry.

12608

CSO: 4404/587

PLANS FOR NASR MECHANICAL INDUSTRIES FACILITY REVIEWED

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1 Jun 84 p 6

/Text/ At the beginning of this year, the Nasr Public Facility for Mechanical Industries was opened. This is considered a strategic project of extreme importance to countrywide and pan-Arab industrial development plans. It will play a major role in bolstering economic independence through self-sufficiency in a number of vital products that feed technical industries and the construction and building sector.

The production methods and techniques in the facility's factories will employ the latest technology and will contribute to the creation of national technical assets capable of fulfilling the desired mission. Iraqi citizens will be trained in similar factories in industrially advanced European countries in accordance with the Ministry of Industry and Minerals' plans and programs concerning this project. Then they will finish their training at the project site by going through all stages of implementation, inspection, receiving, and experimental operations so that our national technical assets, upon completion of the project's implementation, will be completely prepared to ensure its successful operation.

The facility includes four projects. The first is basic equipment and molds, and has an annual production capacity of 220 tons. Fifty percent of the production will be for cold molds, 15 percent for hot molds, 15 percent for plastic molds, and 20 percent for standard mechanical layout, which are used with compressed air.

The second project is designed to establish advanced manufacturing in the country of various iron structural components for the construction of warehouses, factories, buildings, bridges, dividers, partitions, outdoor siding, and indoor partitions, all of which are designed to lessen the load on prefabricated concrete structures, which are very expensive.

The project has a capacity of 60 tons of iron beams for factories, warehouses and buildings, and 700 square meters of corrugated sheets, partitions, doors, and iron and aluminum windows.

The third project is a steel foundry with a productive capacity of /number indistinct/ thousand and 430 tons of steel ball bearings, mill housing,

magnesium steel products, and heat-resistant chains. This is considered an important project for bolstering the cement industry.

The fourth project at the facility is a central services project which is aimed at providing the necessary services to the factories at the facility. This includes heavy water purification, treatment and drainage units, a backup electric power station, telephone network and electricity grid, and fire station.

In manufacturing some of its products, the facility relies on some raw materials found inside the country and some semifinished goods from cooperative sector facilities and from factories in the mixed and private sectors.

The project also seeks to accommodate advanced technology to local conditions and expertise, and to lessen the likelihood of stoppages in other projects and facilities, and to raise the proportion of local manufacturing in many industrial areas, the foremost being the technical industries.

12608

CSO: 4404/587

IMPROVEMENTS RECORDED IN BANKING SECTOR

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Jul 84 p 4

[Article by Dror Sharvit: "Improvement in Banks Results in the First Half"]

[Text] A meaningful improvement was registered in the results of bank transactions during the first half of 1984. The Bank managements are careful about confirming this or disclosing the results to avoid pressure on present salary negotiations and the attempts to fire additional hundreds of workers.

The improvement registered in bank transactions results is apparent in light of the poor results which were registered during the previous year, especially compared to the second half of 1983. Along with it there also was an improvement compared to the first half of 1983.

There are three main reasons for the improved results that were achieved during the first half of 1984: Coordinating the interest apparatus with the rapid inflation in the economy and determining a monthly interest, which was coordinated with the needs of credit and liquidity. Also the price of interest served as a source of profits and according to the Bank of Israel data the real interest that banks charged from January to May was between 17 to 18 percent on an annual basis.

The profitability of activities in the credit area was enhanced in light of the cost of attracting deposits which were very profitable compared to the cost of credit.

Parallel to the improvement in financial profits there was a rapid coordination in the prices of bank services beyond the index rise. Indeed, according to bank claims there is still a gap between the cost of services and their prices but the narrowing of the gap improved the profitability situation compared to last year.

Another area that contributed to the improvement in the bank transaction results relates to the area of operating expenses and the results which have been achieved already as a result of efficiency maneuvers. Considerable savings were achieved as a result of firings of temporary workers, the closing of branches and reductions in marketing and advertising expenses.

There is a feeling of relief in the bank managements in light of the results which were achieved during the first half of the year, but there is a tendency to treat these results with caution in light of several unknowns which still exist regarding activities in all of 1984 - especially regarding the results of the new wage agreement negotiations and the implications for post-election state of the economy on the ability of firms and businesses to meet their obligations to the banks.

9944

CS0: 4423/67

UNIVERSITIES FACE SEVERE FINANCIAL CRISIS

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Jul 84 p 27

[Article by Nurit Davrat: "A Lock on the Universities' Gates - An Accumulating Deficit of \$60 Million"]

[Text] If no real solution is found to operate the universities despite their large debts - reaching the amount of \$60 million there is a claim that they will not open their gates for the coming school year.

There is already a real problem in preparations for the upcoming school year, since the university administrations do not know at all according to which budget they can operate programs and activities. "The situation is catastrophic. Everything stands still. To prepare for the upcoming school year is possible only on the basis of assumptions, and it is not clear if what is being prepared will indeed take place. We are waiting for the after-election period to know where we stand" - says Professor Yoram Dinstein, the rector of Tel Aviv University.

He confirmed that the university heads have already notified the Treasury and the Council for Higher Education that if no practical solution is found for the deteriorating financial situation of institutions of higher learning, their gates will not open. "There is a certain minimum that we cannot do without. We will not be able to open the university without the required budget for operating at a decent level. And we can not do it with the updated April budget, under conditions of run-away inflation. There is an immediate need to transfer the erosion costs. Also it will be necessary to return to us the sums that we paid for loans which we took due to constant delays in the transfer of money from the Treasury," Professor Dinstein made clear.

In response to the question, "What is the solution to the 60 million dollar university deficits?" I received the answer of the people on the Council of Higher Education - and this is also the opinion of the heads of the universities - "the liquidation of debts by the government."

And what is the connection between the dire situation of the universities and the intent to double the tuition to \$1,400 a year? The answer: There is no connection. Since tuition is only 6.5 of the university budgets, even if it is doubled it would be but a drop in their expenses.

It is already clear that even if the government decides - after the election - to raise tuition, many will participate in assistance programs and will not pay the full higher tuition.

In the meantime the universities are adjusting to the situation, which is due to their financial distress, and are working - maybe not enough yet - to cancel areas in which they were too generous. The secretary of the Council for Higher Education, Dov Keren Yar, verifies that "there was waste, mainly in administrative technical manpower. Most of the universities drastically reduced the number of their employees, which was up to 7,800, but at some of them a surplus of workers still exists. In the past outside teachers were employed under terms which bordered on waste; while their employment contract was for a year, they only taught a part of the year and the contract included benefits. Now the terms of their employment have been changed and they receive pay only for the months they work." Also, regarding courses that are being taught, Dov Keren Yar is willing to confirm that there are departments with surplus teaching staff, a situation where changes are being attempted by having senior staff take early retirement and employing fewer junior staff. The Council for Higher Education also believes that the universities can reduce the expenses which are intended for purchases. On this there is a dispute. In the universities they complain about aging equipment, lack of laboratories and the lack of new reading materials in the libraries, and all this because of reduced finances.

9944

CSO: 4423/67

RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON DEALINGS WITH BAHRAIN'S OFFSHORE BANKS

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 28 Jul 84 p 52

[Article: "Saudi Arabia Restricts the Role of the Offshore Banks Because They Refuse to Internationalize Their Currency"]

[Text] Saudi Arabia's recent restriction of the activities of the offshore banks has the objective of bringing Saudi capital back to its native land and preventing the riyal from becoming an international currency since this would be detrimental to Saudi Arabia.

Although they are still achieving good growth rates, the offshore banking units in Bahrain apparently have begun to experience the same crises that the Gulf nations have experienced such as the decline in oil revenues, the Suq al-Manakh crisis, and the Gulf War. The decline in oil revenues and the Suq al-Manakh crisis, however, are having a greater effect on these banks than is the Gulf War, which does not adversely affect them.

More importantly, the change in the nature of the requirements of the region due to the change in petroleum-related circumstances and conditions has forced these offshore banks to play a role which differs from the role which they have played previously. They have played, and continue to play, the role of a sponge which soaks up capital from the nations of the region and lends it to various nations of the area and their foreign business sectors, and then channels the remaining capital to the international markets.

Apparently the Gulf nations, especially Saudi Arabia, are demanding that these banks play a greater role in providing financing for the region, but they fear that the money would be pumped [into the market] in such a way as to create competition for Saudi banks. This is why, some time ago, a series of measures were taken which had the aim of restricting the role played by the offshore banks. Nevertheless, it was asserted that these measures were not designed to be detrimental to the offshore banks, which are considered to be "a source of strength for the Gulf area," according to a remark made by Shaykh Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, the Saudi minister of finance and national economy.

These measures began when the Saudi Arabian Monetary Council issued a decision forcing the offshore banks to obtain permission from it before participating in consolidated loans made in Saudi riyals which are arranged for Saudi borrowers.

The Saudi monetary authorities then resorted to levying a tax or fee on the capital borrowed by Saudis from abroad. This increased the cost of taking out such loans, in particular the interest rates on capital borrowed from the Bahraini offshore banks.

Then there was a third measure taken which required the Saudi commercial banks to deposit a portion of their capital for a period of 90 days. The purpose of this measure was to eliminate any capital surplus in riyals and to prevent it from being channeled to the Bahraini offshore banks which, in turn, engaged in lending this capital to Saudi investors.

The problem which afflicts the offshore banks in Bahrain is the fact that loans in the Saudi market constitute more than 30 percent of their total business volume. There is no doubt about the fact that these Saudi measures are depriving them of a great business opportunity and enormous profits--which were estimated at about \$427 million in 1982 and approximately the same sum in 1983.

According to Mr 'Abdallah Sayf, the governor of the Bahrain Monetary Council, some of the banks registered losses last year. What this means is that the profits earned by these banks have ceased growing. However, this does not mean that matters will remain at a standstill if the international banks are able to find a different type of role for them in the Saudi market.

Why has Saudi Arabia undertaken to restrict the activities of the offshore banks?

In a speech which he gave not long ago, Mr Hamad Sa'ud al-Sayyari, head of SAMA [the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency], shed some light on the objectives of Saudi Arabia's monetary policy. His points were as follows:

1. SAMA wants Saudi capital furnished in the form of riyals to return to its native land. This would provide the Saudi banking apparatus with additional business and would reduce the degree to which Saudi Arabia relies on the Bahraini offshore banks.

2. Saudi Arabia has decided to restrict the international role of the riyal. In other words, Saudi Arabia does not want the riyal to be transformed into an international currency as is being demanded by the European and U.S. banks as well as the IMF. If the riyal did become an international currency, this would result in unacceptable burdens being placed on the Saudi currency. In this regard, it is also said that if the riyal assumed the function of being an international currency, this would force the Saudi government to subsidize international transactions in riyals with its enormous foreign currency reserves, and the consequence of this would be a condition of imbalance in Saudi Arabia's financial life--and the least serious consequence of this situation would be a constant liquidity crisis.

Nevertheless, Saudi Arabia's hard-line policy with regard to the Bahraini offshore banks has come at an inappropriate time. The growth of business transactions by the offshore banks has undergone a decrease in comparison to what it used to be because of the worldwide recession, the decrease in capital provided by the market in Kuwait because of the Suq al-Manakh crisis, the decrease in expenditures by the governments [of the region] and consequently the decrease in surplus capital possessed by the private sector, and because the Gulf War has reduced demand on the part of individuals and investors for the services of the offshore banks.

There is a total of 75 foreign and Arab offshore banks in Bahrain. They include, for example, the offshore units belonging to the Gulf International Bank, the Arab Banking Corporation, and the Arab Investment Company. The assets of these banks totalled about \$63.2 billion last May, as compared with \$63.4 billion in April. In other words, there was a decrease of \$200 million. However, this is a decrease of a temporary nature.

The heads of the offshore banks in Bahrain hope that the year 1985 will be a year in which they once again begin to prosper. Their hope is based on the fact that there are indications that the Gulf War will either end soon or come to a standstill for a certain period of time. Furthermore, Kuwait is about to solve the Suq al-Manakh crisis. If it had not been for this crisis, Kuwait today would constitute the banking and financial center of the Middle East, and there is no doubt that the offshore banks in Bahrain were going to benefit from this fact.

In addition to this, there are signs that there will soon be an end to the crisis which has resulted from the decrease in demand for oil. The economies of the world are coming to life once again in spite of the existence of the obstacles of inflation. When these economies have been revived, the demand for oil will inevitably increase. Of course, the demand will not be as high as it was in 1980, but it will be higher than it is at the present time.

9468

CSO: 4404/604

PANEL REVIEWS FUNCTION, CONDUCT OF MORALITY POLICE IN DEPTH

Riyadh AL-YAMAMAH in Arabic No 813, 1 Aug 84 pp 3-11

[Article: "A Discussion with the Accountability Officers"]

[Text] The boards for the Command of Virtue and Prohibition of Vice are a unique feature which distinguishes our country from all the others in the world. In our conversation with a number of senior officials in the general department of the boards, we "discovered," without forewarning, that the boards are not a "volunteer" which, on foot or by a James sedan, calls out "pray and God will guide you." In spite of this, the boards are much broader in scope. This conversation was held on their numerous lofty tasks, the nature of their role and some practices which citizens consider are unsuitable, and we have given you our invitation to read, so that you may discover what we have discovered.

[Question] It is being rumored among the public that the boards' tasks are to monitor and oversee markets and call people to prayer only. Do you imagine that these actually are the boards' basic tasks?

Counsellor Shaykh Salih ibn Sa'd al-Lahidan, deputy general chairman: The command of virtue and prohibition of vice, in terms of nomenclature, is divided into two categories in Islamic law:

A general category, the absolute work which all Moslems perform, through commands and prohibition in the realm of Islamic morals and ethics; every Moslem on earth is responsible for this.

The second category is the responsibility of the people who have been assigned it, the accountability officers. After this introduction comes the answer, which I of course consider a conclusion of the foregoing, which is that the notion which has come into being, which you have imposed upon us, is not correct, because judgment of something is not a notion. People have not yet conceived the true nature of the necessity on which the board was established, because they have fallen short in their understanding of its general business and its particular business; as a result, the judgments have been made although they have not faced the truth of the responsibility laid on the shoulder of the board in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The second category, as regards markets and the business concerning prayers, is part of the board's mission. King 'Abd-al-'Aziz, may God give him mercy, when he was in power, commanded faith, unification and belief in almighty glorious God, and adhering to the prophet is the first basis. Therefore, the boards and the judiciary were held in high regard from the time this government was established. This complete notion will give us to understand that the board's responsibility is a matter of Islamic law and a practical one. What concerns commands and prohibitions is an applied, practical matter, and from this point of view we say that the business of the boards is executive and based on security and Islamic law. It is more comprehensive and general than if their role was in the markets or commanding virtue through prayer. By the way, as a theoretical point, they are drawn up in a way which supplements executive activities or is a preliminary to them, that is, warning of dangers to morality which Islam is not satisfied with and the brochures which the general department publishes for the sake of guidance in the general department of the boards.

The role of the boards, as you mentioned in your question, is generally not sensed or felt. We might agree over this sound observation, but I can also say that you have to live in our midst so that you can see what is felt.

AL-YAMAMAH: The situation may be like this in the Central Province, for example, but what if we find that it is not felt in the Western Province or the Eastern Province?

His Eminence Shaykh Ibrahim al-Ghayth, the general supervisor of the department branch in Riyadh Province, said, "The task of the members of the board, as it appears at first, is restricted to the business of directing people to perform the prayer, which without a doubt is a function that has priority and is one of the greatest tasks of the accountability officers, but there are other tasks which the board members carry out also, and the board cooperates with a number of other government departments.

"For example, it cooperates with the municipality in combatting commercial fraud, and therefore some people who engage in fraud in the matter of buying and selling are always being summoned to the department branch in Riyadh. If the board is informed that people are going to excess in prices or for example dealing fraudulently in gold, although this is one of the tasks of the campaign against commercial fraud in the Ministry of Commerce, the board cooperates with that in combatting this fraud. The board also cooperates with the General Anti-Narcotics Department; the most recent example of this is what happened in the last 3 days of the month of Ramadan this year, 1984, when a case was unearthed involving no more than 10,000 narcotics pills, in addition to alcohol and other things which were seized. The General Anti-Narcotics Department is offering the boards for the command of virtue every form of aid and assistance in the form of personnel and does not stint any aid or assistance in regard to finishing what the members of the authority have started. We are also cooperating with the police precincts with respect to the harassment of women or people who subject others to harassment. The board has good, clear, obvious cooperation with telecommunications patrol, as represented by Capt Ibrahim 'Abdallah al-Ghinam and people working with him, and they also have clear, obvious cooperation in regard to the director

of the Riyadh Province police, Maj Gen Muhammad ibn 'Ayish al-Mutayri, and also all police precincts in Riyadh Province. They cooperate with the board, also, on the subject of observing women's tailors. It is well known that women's tailoring is broken down into two areas, women's tailoring where the workers are men and women's tailoring where the workers are women. The board oversees these shops. As you mentioned before, people imagine that the task of the board officers is restricted to giving warning to pray, but giving warning to pray is part of the most important activities the board officers carry out. The closest to this is a recent example which comes to my mind. In the past 2 days in the al-Suwaydi section, we arrested a man who was trying to break locks at the time of the noon prayer; he was arrested by board officers. We did not say that this task was not one of our prerogatives or the prerogative of the police, since the board officers are security officers and they cooperate with security officers in carrying out their duties."

AL-YAMAMAH: All the tasks of the members of the board that you have reviewed -- why don't they appear in an obvious fashion in the remaining areas of the kingdom, such as the Western Province and the Eastern Province, while they are clear and obvious in the Central Province?

Shaykh Salih al-Lahidan replied by saying, "What we hope is that the board will start afresh. The basis of the new is the old, and the old in the boards was very old, based on good foundations and based on firm footing. However, the present era and the opening up of the world to technology, technical matters and the mixing of cultures, ideas and the scientific points which have come in, make it mandatory that we in the general department start the steps afresh, address the world with liberal, enlightened thinking and address the world comprehensively, realistically, truthfully and with total loyalty to God and his prophet, on whom be God's prayers and peace. Therefore, we have started to distribute books to centers, so that they will be refuges for students of scholarship, and we urge learning and aspire to Islamic morals and customs.

"As far as the Western Province goes, and the fact that it differs from the Central Province, and also is different from the Eastern Province, al-Qusaym Province and the Southern Province, that is because it is shelter for many ethnic groups at the time of the pilgrimage, and therefore the responsibility of the board of the department branch in the Western Province is a delicate one, in some seasons, not all. I agree with you that activity in the Western Province requires support, requires an impetus and requires follow-up, so that it can assume this clear form. The Western Province Board cooperates with the office of the governor. His Highness Prince Majid ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz and His Highness Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd-al-Muhsin told me that cooperation exists wholeheartedly. Prince Majid encouraged me by stating that he was most prepared and has ordered some 'brothers' to cooperate with the board. However, the situation requires time, in order for studies to emerge and their results to appear after that in the Western Province. The problem which is facing us now is our desire to bring in new young people to work in the board, not just in the Western Province but also in many of the kingdom's provinces, because the board, alongside the Ministry of the Interior, is one of the government executive installations which complement one another."

Shaykh Ibrahim Ibn Ghayth interrupted the conversation and said, "You might also wonder about the hidden reason why the activity of the board has not been given prominence, except insofar as it just calls for prayer, because there is no media coverage of the presence of the boards in public opinion and people do not notice the board when a person dealing in narcotics or alcohol is arrested, or for example people harass and disturb women and try to abuse others. That can be brought about only through the media, and these things are hidden."

AL-YAMAMAH: Why shouldn't activity and cooperation between you and the various media be intensified?

Ibrahim ibn Ghayth: The General Department of Indoctrination and Guidance could be the link between the boards and the various media. It is well known that the boards can take part in the television, radio and printed media, and, through guidance and indoctrination in the future, it will be possible for us to offer information and they will have correspondents in the agency who will supply the media with everything that is new. God willing, this feature will be stressed.

Shaykh ibn Ghayth went on to say, "There is clear, obvious cooperation with the office of the governor of Riyadh Province. That supplies us with 'brothers,' as does the General Department of Fighting Men, who all contribute with us in our field work, for which we must acknowledge that they get credit, as well as the brothers in the General Anti-Narcotics Department, represented by our brother Maj Gen Jamil al-Mayman. They must be thanked for these services which they offer us."

AL-YAMAMAH: So you agree with us that there is cooperation between the boards and the various media.

[Answer] Yes, yes.

AL-YAMAMAH: However, reservations might exist in terms of photography and the like.

Ibn Ghayth: Permit me to state that media indoctrination is not always concerned with photographs. Media indoctrination can take place through reading or broadcasting. If officials in the department consider it suitable to contribute to television for indoctrination's sake, there is nothing to prevent that!

Shaykh Salih is always contributing to television, and he is famous and well known.

Shaykh al-Lahidan interrupted and said, "The General Indoctrination and Guidance Department plays an effective role. The general department's task can be broken down into four categories. The first is study of the research coming in and articles published in newspapers and magazines, be they domestic or foreign, and discussion with their owners via the Ministry of Information.

"The second category, the one we would like to have, is to generate books and research bearing on the boards alongside the magazine; these would be periodical or semi-periodical and would appear in the future on an obvious basis in the media, and would be made available to public opinion in the kingdom. The final point is bringing in a number of religious scholars and inviting them to give lectures. I had previously talked to Shaykh Ibrahim ibn Ghayth and the supervisors of all the branches, but the matter needs study. When this study comes out and its results become known, the General Department of Indoctrination will have fulfilled its effective role, almighty God willing."

Shaykh ibn Ghayth continued, "The department proceeded to supply us with books about women, during the month of Ramadan, and they were distributed in the markets to the centers also. These are books which teach and indoctrinate women on the affairs of their religion. By this I mean that the board's role is an executive one and one of guidance and indoctrination, especially when we realize that what is common to the people is just an executive role.

"I would like to add also that as far as people who are detained in the board centers go, they are given some small texts and some books, so that they can benefit from their time in detention. We in the board consider that detention is indoctrination and guidance, not just a penalty. For example, if we bring these detainees into a room, and the rooms are prepared, furnished and clean, with thanks to God we give them some brochures, so that they can benefit from them during detention. Then, after that, if they go out, they hand over these brochures; if they appreciate them and persist in requesting them, it is possible that they might be given them. Therefore, we find that some detainees frequent some centers in order to get further learning and understanding. On some occasions, if we arrest someone who has failed to pray, we impose on him the condition, on his release, that he bring us a certificate from an imam in a mosque that he has learned the foundations of prayer, the obligations of prayer and the provisions that are related to prayer. Thus, we try to eliminate the ignorance that is suspended in his mind."

AL-YAMAMAH: Let us agree that there is a dispute over some practices by the members of the board, and this provokes people's anger at some of them sometimes.

Shaykh Murif al-Buqmi: I believe firmly, and do not doubt, that the agency of the board was established to guide people and summon them to the truth, not to act antagonistically with them or compete with them. When the "accountability" officers stand and make the call for prayer, prohibit vice or command virtue, they are thereby seeking to shift the nation from the abyss of ignorance to the safe land of goodness and the performance of good works. The forms and types of cases the board members come up against vary.

Shaykh ibn Ghayth interrupted to state,

"We are still insisting that our directives to the members of the board be concentrated on their pursuing the appeal, proceeding from the premise which Islam has stipulated in its holy book and the sayings and doings of the pure

one, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, which is that the appeal should be to good works and tolerance. We do not doubt that the people who belong to the board pursue this approach in their work. If criticisms have been recorded against the people making the appeal, I have no doubt that they concern the volunteers who are our proteges, who are seized by enthusiasm and in their conduct act contrary to personal behavior. We wish ourselves and them guidance and we wish that the prophet, on whom be God's prayers and peace, will be their model in the call and in guidance. It is to him that the verse 'If you are harsh and rough of heart, they will depart from your presence' was revealed, the verse, and the almighty's statement 'Call for the path of your lord with wisdom and good exhortation, and argue with them with that which is better,' the verse. As I mentioned earlier, we hold periodic meetings with the members of the board and we are ceaselessly guiding them toward the best conduct in their dealings, and I fully trust that they will commit themselves to this approach."

AL-YAMAMAH: What type of cases do you deal with in your department?

Shaykh Murif: There are supervisors and investigation offices in all provinces. In those supervisory provinces, the supervisors perform guidance, although their connection is with the department of cases. All notices that there are houses prepared for "such and-such" or that there is a suspicion about them or the like, that young people are harrassing women, or there are people who fail to pray, and so forth, reach the supervisor.

The board investigates these notices and confirms the truthfulness of the informant, then, after that, measures are taken.

AL-YAMAMAH: How do you learn the truth of what the informant or the investigator says? That is, for example, if we inform you of a house in which there is such and such, whose presence in the section causes us anxiety, how do you learn about the character of the informant?

Shaykh Murif: The supervisor of the region or the chief of the section investigates the informant from the standpoint of his reliability, truthfulness and good intentions in giving notice, for the sake of changing what is reprehensible or for other personal purposes, such as enmity or the like. The identity of the informant is taken, same as his residence, place of work, address, and telephone, and they ask about the person at a distance. After confirmation, the authority takes the measures that have to be taken.

Shaykh al-Lahidan intervened in the discussion and added the statement "There are in reality two things as far as notification or followup are concerned, for instance concerning the problems received by the department. Islamic law has what are called methods of proof, and the board divides its business up into two categories, theoretical methods of proof and actual methods of proof, that is, applied methods. As regards the former category, the informant comes, sometimes in person or in writing, or gets in touch by telephone. Generally telephone conversations are rejected, or not accepted, or are taken note of as circumstantial evidence. With written material, the complete name and address of the sender is investigated. As for meetings, that is, personal appearances, the identity of the person making this

statement is confirmed through the official establishment of proof, as Shaykh Murif has been so kind as to state. After confirmation, we put the accused person under surveillance in one of two ways, by observation in practice or the second category, which I have mentioned, after the theoretical category, and the oversight is repeated and the person's business is observed. If it is proved, then the authority of the department requires that this person be arrested. There is a difference between a house search and arrest. House searches are more comprehensive, but arrests are possible, and if it is not possible to arrest a person, it is possible to search a place, if it is as clear as the sun that he is guilty. This is the case as far as the first point goes. As regards the second point, the fact is that I have a philosophy, or an opinion, as regards the problems that afflict young people in the country, inside or outside the kingdom. That is that there are pressures and competition in the modern era as a consequence of industry, congestion and the pressure of the population in the world, and also a mixture of cultures, cultures which have had an effect on the young people of the country. My opinion or executive philosophy in eliminating this phenomenon is that I do not punish the young person. I say this is my theory in particular. I have previously mentioned it in my book 'The Status of the Accused in the Council of the Judiciary.' The young person must not be punished unfairly, but his psychology and his condition must be studied. What are the causative reasons why he should 'flirt,' for example? Before I condemn him, I must seek out the psychological, social and educational reasons, so that I can derive this motivation from the foolish mentality which has made him commit these things which have disrupted the ethics and morals of Islam. If it is proved that the man or the young person who has committed this crime has some psychological complexes or an advanced pathological background as a result of educational pressure or as a result of the mixture of cultures in thinking, they must be treated, and, if it is proved that his commission of these small crimes is a result of desire or passions, I must carry out the Islamic penalty with him or carry out a reproof on him. As regards the Islamic punishment, if he is pathological or disturbed, his situation must be looked at, to determine whether the disruption is the cause of the problem or the disruption preceded or came after it."

Shaykh ibn Ghayth also intervened in the discussion and added another point, saying "When we deal with the issue of young people, as Shaykh Salih has been so kind as to point out, we must also deal with the issue of women, because these young people flirt with these girls only if they see something in them that draws attention, such as a glance. The necessary thing is that the woman's situation be dealt with along with that of the young man, because for years if you talked to any of the inhabitants of this country about 'flirtation' or 'annoyance,' he would not know what that meant, but when there is makeup, uncovering of the face or also transparent clothing and clothing which is close to the skin and beguiling, that causes a passionate response among young people. What there is no doubt about is that the men in the board deal with the issue of young people as we have heard and deal with the issue of girls through advice and guidance, whether through direct advice or by drawing the attention of her guardian, if he is present with her, that it is necessary to cover her up, or through general guidance or exhortation through lectures, seminars, or scientific indoctrination, or through the indoctrination of the public media.

AL-YAMAMAH: Most unfortunately, the members of the board are not in the most developed sections, specifically in northern Riyadh Province, while they are present in other areas of Riyadh. What is your view.

Dr Salih al-Sadlan, chairman of the higher board of the province, replied, "The truth is that this statement in which you said 'the most developed sections' is an extension of the previous statement in the question asked of Shaykh Salih al-Lahidan, and Shaykh Ibrahim completed part of it, which is that this difference among the provinces arises from a number of factors and reasons, most important of which is the lack of a budget and the failure to give the regions the workers or means concerned with spreading about the command of virtue and prohibition of vice that they are entitled to. However, I can say that matters and means on the part of the general department have been provided and furnished, but we do not have factories for human beings; an appeal is made to young people and all Moslems to direct themselves toward and practice the command of virtue and the prohibition of vice, whether by restraining themselves or by giving guidance to others or participating, contributing and joining the corps of the board of the command of virtue and prohibition of vice. As for what you find in some provinces, the fact is that that arises from a number of factors and blame for them must not be laid on the board alone, or on the citizen alone, or on the member of the board alone. Rather, these factors should be all be observed in combination. The fact is that the most important thing is that there should be a balance and the situation should be studied in the new areas and the general department of the boards. As the vice chairman of the general department, Shaykh Salih, said, they have now started to take note of the rapid spread and expansion, which has taken all government activities and agencies by surprise, and it should not be said that this is something peculiar to the board. The rapid growth and development whose likes we had not previously heard or read about in this country or elsewhere has led some bodies to succumb to a sort of embarrassment because of the lack of availability of resources, and the department will make broad strides, but you must be patient and wait for the good, almighty God willing.

AL-YAMAMAH: What are you doing about the luxurious central markets also, such as the real estate or jewelry markets, and the like, and the loitering that takes place in them?

Dr Salih al-Sadlan said, "In reality, the markets in the Upper Province are very crowded, and there now are more than 25 markets there. Among the biggest and most crowded of them are the real estate markets and the Arab markets ('Euromarche'), as well as the jewelry and other markets. As far as the center of the Upper [Province] board goes, that is working to the full extent of the resources that have been made available to it, and the issue here is not one of talk but rather one of work; a number of bodies are required for the work that comes out into the field, the citizen, the person who has settled here, and also the member of the board and the media. Everyone should exert his efforts and everyone should exert the effort he must. However, if the matter is left to one party, and let us assume that the members of the board and the other parties or other bodies are not involved in its work, that will bring about an obvious disruption. However, if the media and the guidance and indoctrination agencies cooperate, the

citizens respond, and the imams of the mosques, the givers of sermons in the mosques, the press and all the broadcast and printed media are involved in the same side and do what they must, this will have a great effect. Since the real estate markets, like others, are new, some things have appeared in them and some observations have been made on them, as was the case with the jewelry markets, and a noise was made. I might mention that AL-YAMAMAH magazine wrote an investigation on the jewelry markets. Here I can say, as Shaykh Salih said, that young people alone must not bear the responsibility, nor should the members of the board. The responsibility here is a joint one. Young people here cannot find any space to breathe in, except in these markets. However, if you make them embrace the guidance clubs and their own clubs as well, you will guide them, inform them, and give them instructions that they must not appear in this fashion, especially after their team or the all-star team wins. That is not the encouragement that usually occurs after a victory, especially in the streets and markets, when we go and obstruct other people's activities and bother them. That is not the objective of the government, and this is not the objective of youth care."

AL-YAMAMAH: What is the proper way by which we can guide young people to use their powers and spend their free time, in your personal opinion?

Dr. al-Sadlan: Through the clubs. When the clubs attract young people, offer them guidance, orientation and advice and give them further guidance and indoctrination, then they have an effect. The club must play its actual full role socially, culturally and in terms of sports.

Counsellor al-Lahidan intervened in the conversation and said, "In our trip to the United States with Dr Mohamed Ben Khanja, who is from Morocco, and Mohamed Ben Zaia, who is from Algeria, we made a tour of various universities and higher institutes and started deeply to observe the obvious precocity in maturing in childhood, a maturation process which is based on foundations that I would not have imagined had I not observed them. I ventured to state in a judgment I had previously made in a paper that the problem of young people is not their deviant conduct, the sporting clubs or any other area; rather, the problem is that many subjects are introduced at the primary level and the intermediate level, so that the when student comes out of the university he does not understand anything. As a result of that, we must uproot the causes of the problem, propose solutions for it and reformulate the curriculum on advanced scientific foundations which are founded on God's law and what the prophet of God, on whom be God's prayers and peace, counselled. After the students' social, specialized and psychological studies at the first level in early childhood, after graduation from elementary or preparatory, we should cause the student to proceed in the direction of medicine, the direction of engineering, the direction of pharmacy, the direction of industry, and so forth, starting at an early age, so that we can create a desire in the student from the beginning in his area of specialization and cause all his time to be filled with study and reading. I believe, according to my own experience, information and reading, that this is a proper, fixed virtue, and, even if it is proved that deviant conduct has started to manifest itself in the student, it is possible to bring him to the proper, initial way of thinking. The sports clubs have a very large responsibility, because neither they nor others have done what they ought to have. However,

the important thing is to study the psychology and the desires of young people."

At this point Shaykh Ibrahim ibn Ghayth pointed out "In reality, as a simple example, we know that tremendous numbers of young people stay up at night and go in tremendous numbers to the markets during Ramadan. In recent years their number has diminished somewhat, and when you think why the number of young people going to the markets at night in Ramadan has declined, you find for example that the summer centers have absorbed these tremendous numbers from the markets and have started to bring them up and guide them, rather than having them abuse themselves, or abuse their society or their families, and use has started to be made of them in education and guidance. The summer centers have a great effect, whether they belong to the al-Imam University, the Ministry of Education, or others. We find that the summer centers are filled with from 500 to 1,000 students, which proves that the latter are looking for people to take them under their protection and guide them and make use of their powers. Here I can state that if the sporting clubs concentrate internally on cultural aspects, they will absorb large numbers of young people, because it is to be noted, as you mentioned, that the clubs are now specializing in sports, and if the second area, the cultural area, were provided, as well as the social aspect, they will benefit in the first degree, especially when we realize that the summer centers are only in the summer season, that is, during the holidays. During the academic year, they have no room to breathe in, except for the school activity center, which is a limited area. One should bear in mind that it is a good idea and the school administrations are to be thanked for it."

AL-YAMAMAH: Does the department consider that it should undertake such things, especially in devising things young people can benefit from and expressing advice concerning that?

Shaykh al-Lahidan replied by saying, "One of the tasks of the General Indocination Department is to provide lectures and research work and publish brochures to accommodate the greatest possible numbers. However, our problem is that most of the lectures that are given are improvised, editorialize and tend toward recitations and direct action. In the future, God willing, the board's policy will have to address itself to the mind and sometimes address itself to the emotions, and therefore the man giving the lecture who writes, performs research or holds a discussion must not orient himself toward direct action or orient himself toward the making of speeches or toward editorializing. People's minds differ and opinions change, but depth develops in this way and this is the way by which the prophet, on whom be God's blessings and peace, judged his companions and taught them. They would address themselves to the mind directly and would include material the intelligence would find acceptable in their statements. If that happens, we will have made a great stride toward the attainment of the objective and the benefit."

AL-YAMAMAH: It is currently being observed that most of the members of the boards are volunteers. How do you suppose they join the boards?

Shaykh Ibrahim al-Ghayth said, "As far as the volunteers go, in my view they can be broken down into two categories. The first are volunteers who are not

connected to the board; those bear the responsibility for their work and the results of what they do. The second are in contact with officials in the boards. If for example they get in contact with the board, the board in the Riyadh Province branch studies the state of the person who presents himself, and if he wants to volunteer, without salary, if the man is for example well known for intelligence, composure and a deliberate temperament, it will ask him for a certificate from a judge or well-known person in the town who is a scholar and belongs to the town and has known that man from close at hand. If he comes to the board in Riyadh Province with an introduction from a given sheikh or a given well-known man, the body will give him an introduction for a period of 3 months, and his state will be looked into during that period. After this period has elapsed, a specific area of the city of Riyadh, for example, will be set aside for him and his movements will be observed, and if it is proved to us in the period of 3 months that no violations have been committed by the man and that the man is intelligent and composed, we will give him instructions, which are that his advice, guidance and directives should be derived from the holy Koran and the pure sayings and doings of the prophet, in the manner of the almighty's statement 'Call for the way of your lord with wisdom and good exhortation, and struggle with them with what is better.' If he sees something which must be expropriated, such as contraband, or if he sees something repugnant whose owner must be arrested, that volunteer will not arrest that person committing the violation, nor make a confiscation, but will inform the nearest police station or board because he has a letter of introduction which will prove his affiliation, that he is one of the persons cooperating with the board. The government departments cooperate with sincere citizens, and, as I have mentioned, after the volunteer has properly gone through the 3-month period the board again gives him a permit or introduction, for a period of 6 full months, and after 6 months it is given for a period of a year. In this manner, the introduction of this man takes place gradually so that things will not be done by him whose consequences are not praiseworthy and so that if things are done by him the board can get rid of him quickly. By this method, we have benefitted greatly from our brother volunteers, because they are not connected to a particular place or a particular time, and they exert great and small efforts for the sake of preserving public ethics and morals, but, as I pointed out above, within set limits. This is as far as the volunteers who have a connection with the board are concerned. The board does not bear responsibility for the results of the actions of the former group, that is, volunteers who are not in contact with the board, and does not know anything about them.

AL-YAMAMAH: For what mistakes are the men in the board held accountable?

Ibn Ghayth: You know that the board men must be characterized by intelligence and composure, whether they are on an official basis, work by the hour or are volunteers. We do not want to make haste, act precipitously and deal with others in an unsuitable, erroneous manner, until we can make a confirmation. It is well known that the accused is innocent until his guilt is proved, and we must not be hasty. Nor do we want the volunteer to commit aggression by his own hand, and he must not hit people or use repugnant language. Rather, he should be moderate and composed, and, if he is compelled to seize an item or arrest a person, he has the traffic police and

the policemen, all of whom, thanks and gratitude be to God, cooperate with us as thoroughly as possible, as well as the fighting men, if what has been attributed to the accused man or the person to be arrested is proved to them.

AL-YAMAMAH: Pardon me, but must the citizen compel the officials of the board or members of the board to show the card or introduction by which it can be proved that he is a board member?

[Answer] As far as the official members go, the majority of them do not carry cards with them, because some of them are old brothers who do not want to obtain cards. Therefore, the board does not compel them to get cards. However, on all occasions and at all meetings with heads of centers and members, we always encourage them to get cards, because the card is considered to be official proof before anyone, whether Saudi or someone from abroad, that this man represents the government and that he is an official person whose orders should be obeyed and whose disciplinary requests should be responded to.

AL-YAMAMAH: What are the most conspicuous problems the boards face?

Ibn Ghayth: Among the most conspicuous problems the boards meet with are excesses by certain volunteers who have no connection with the boards. On some occasions, requests for accountability come to us from some bodies because such and such has happened in a given place, and when we investigate the matter we find that these excesses are not by the members of the board or they are by volunteers who have no introductions, and we do not know anything about these people.

Ibn Ghayth went on to say, "As I pointed out, no one who wants to cooperate with the board can be given a letter of introduction until after the board's viewpoint toward the work assigned to him is explained to him, since we get undertakings from them which they cannot violate. If you are a cooperating person, may God preserve your life, but we have conditions which you must submit to. Either you submit to them or we do not give you this piece of paper, which proves that you are a member of the board and belong to us."

AL-YAMAMAH: Is there a specific age for people belonging to the boards?

Ibn Ghayth: The people appointed on the hourly system belong to the government system, and no one is appointed until he has reached the age when he is given a personal file, which is between 17 and 18 and above. Below that, no! An official employee, or employee on the hourly system, can be appointed to the boards for the command of virtue and the prohibition of vice. As far as cooperators go, we all cooperate in commanding virtue and prohibiting vice; the matter is not confined to anyone specific. Indeed, it is requested of all Moslems, as almighty God said: "You are the best of nations which were brought before the people: command what is virtuous and prohibit what is repugnant." The prophet, on whom be God's prayers and peace, said "Whoever of you sees something repugnant, let him change it by his hand, and if he cannot, then by his tongue, and if he cannot, then by his heart, for that is the least of faith."

He did not make the board alone responsible, but rather made all Moslems who are able to do so responsible. However, I advise volunteers to be intelligent and composed, not to act rashly, and to be self-disciplined: any violation they observe, they must convey to the nearest security agency.

AL-YAMAMAH: First of all, there is a charge that arbitrariness has been practiced in cutting off people's hair; then, do you consider that this sort of action has been valid in the case of people who cause harrassment?

Ibn Ghayth: The fact is that as far as the boards go, when they cut the long hair on some young people who harrass women, they are proceeding on instructions from the Ministry of the Interior; we have specific instructions from the Ministry of the Interior, by which people harrassing women are arrested and then their hair is cut. However, the board does not cut the hair itself; it takes the person to the barber shop and asks the person who has been arrested to have it cut as he likes so that this hair will not be short. We do not obligate him to a specific style. Rather, we say "Your hair that you have used to attract women is long, and it must be removed."

AL-YAMAMAH: Even people who come from abroad are arrested and their hair is cut.

Ibn Ghayth: As far as people coming from abroad go, we know that among them growing hair is not a strange thing in their eyes. We are in reality concentrating on the young people of the country or on people who come from abroad who use long hair for bad purposes.

Dr al-Sadlan intervened in the discussion and said, "In reality, people harrassing women, especially people who let their hair grow inordinately long, are now very numerous. The members and the policemen going along with them cannot cover this large number of young people. We worked with the general circular Shaykh Ibrahim circulated, which came from the General Department of the Boards of the Command of Virtue, based on guidelines from the Ministry of the Interior.

"The fact is that by adopting this method, which is to cut the hair of the people responsible for the harrassment, I have cut down on them and on their loitering in central markets and also public markets. We have stepped up the activity over a series of nights and in the course of that the number of loiterers has dropped to about two thirds."

Shaykh ibn Ghayth went on to say, "Some young people in reality like to be disciplined by the stick and not have their hair cut at all, and they keep their hair in a very strange way!

"There also is cooperation between us and the schools, universities and institutes. If a violation is observed in connection with any student, we notify the school, institute or faculty in which he studies, and inform it that we have found such and such a student growing his hair long and it will have to be cut. We tell it, do not give the student classwork or stipends until he has cut his hair or shortened it. There is a great interconnection and good cooperation between us and the school administrations, and this is not strange."

Shaykh al-Sadlan asserted, "The majority of the people who grow their hair long are most unfortunately government employees and are not connected with schools."

[Question] Some owners of bookstores are on record as finding fault with the members of the board in their capacity as observers of their displays of books and magazines, and people who issue confiscation decrees based on the personal judgment of board members, while these goods have been passed, in terms of censorship, by the Publications [Department]. They complain that there is no coordination, in terms of censorship, between you and the Publications Department. What is your view?

Ibn Ghayth: As far as members of the board go, if they observe any violation on the part of owners of bookstores, owners of record shops or owners of video shops or any commercial shop, they have only to take a sample of these things which are in violation then give the owner of the bookstore or the owner of the shop a receipt or document of receipt, then, after that, the branch board head will write to the Riyadh Province branch that he has seized such and such, will ask the owner of the shop to keep the remaining amount, and will get a commitment from the owner of the shop compelling him not to dispose of the remaining amount until he meets with his source of reference regarding that. If it comes to the Riyadh Province branch, he himself in turn will write the Department of Publications in the Ministry of Information, stating in the letter that we have seized such and such in such and such a magazine. We generally get cooperation from Mr Musfir al-Musfir, the acting director general of publications, and therefore they play their part by cutting out some pages or confiscating them on some occasions, if the presence of negative points in them is proved to be great.

"The fact is that the statutes are no secret to any owner of a bookshop or commercial shop, whatever excuses he may make, and he can open the bookstore or the shop only after he has read the statutes and the instructions from the Ministry of Information; in particular, we should realize that it does not give anyone a permit until he has read the statutes. We of course are not responsible for the violation the person commits. Everyone who commits violations must receive his punishment. We must all recognize the actual situation. Every upright citizen supposedly must cooperate, with the board or with others, for the sake of the public interest. For example, there are things in the markets which are forbidden, and you find the owner of the shop protesting and saying 'I have a permit from customs.' One should bear in mind that customs cannot know about everything, especially since it is under pressure, is just familiar with some samples, and is not to be blamed for that.

Some merchants, most unfortunately, deal fraudulently with government agencies, since some of them make agreements with companies abroad which set some forbidden objects up for them in a special way. Thanks be to God, many of them are discovered, and therefore they are arrested and they receive their punishment!

I would like to add here and assert that the tearing up [of written materials] is not done just by the members of the board and the body responsible

for it, the Ministry of Information. Our role is just one of giving notice. We make a submission and an application only, nothing more!

Counsellor Salih al-Lahidan interrupted, stating "The magazines, pictures and books that are in violation are not a disease, and I do not consider depraved video tapes to be a disease; rather, they are a symptom of a disease. The disease in reality is education, as a result of which what has happened has happened. If education had been founded on true, continuing scientific and educational bases on the part of the owners of bookstores and all publishers, this matter would not have become current.

"There is a point which I would like to make to board members in all areas of the kingdom, which is that it would be nice if the overseers of the Ministry of Interior's instructions, by which the General Publications Department of the Ministry of Information in Riyadh, Jiddah, the Eastern Province and al-Qusaym Province proceeds, were thoroughly informed of the extensive pervasive background, so that they could study between the lines and study what was behind the picture; this is the solution for putting an end to this problem.

"As for the board, none of its members has happened to have torn out a picture, forcibly taken away a magazine or picked a quarrel with the owner of a bookshop or publishing house on grounds that something is forbidden or not forbidden; rather, they take a sample in exchange for money and present it to Riyadh Province, the Western Province, al-Qusaym Province, the Southern Province, or other provinces.

"It then makes a study, and after the study comes the conclusion. What I would like to point out here is that the problem lies in indoctrination, and I believe that the department of the boards, publications, the Department of Rulings and Scholarly Research and the Ministry of the Interior are a single department and constitute a strong security installation, and participation among these four bodies is necessary."

Counsellor Salih al-Lahidan followed up on his statement by saying "Many people get in touch with me and tell me that the board does not do such and such and is very remiss. I agree, but these people's problem is that they do not have a conception of the limits of the boards' responsibility as regards the publications that concern them. I can say that it would be good if the General Department of Publications took part along with the General Department of Scholarly Research in a broader field area, and it would be good if this was the case regarding the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Information and the general department. If that happens, a sort of indoctrination will occur. Out of my principle and my policy on Islamic law, we should in any case not resort to force immediately -- rather, we can proceed with the approach that must be adopted after study, review and analysis. I have not heard of force bearing fruit, or imagined that it could. Indeed, usually, a reaction occurs among the people to whom force is applied, men or women, and let me say again that indoctrination is necessary and that Islamic indoctrination based on the scholarly foundations of Islamic law is necessary."

In another area, Dr Salih al-Sadlan, head of the Upper Province board, intervened in the discussion and said "There generally are volunteers who buy publications from bookstores out of their own pockets. The fact is that they are not compelled to buy them out of their own pockets and are not connected to the board. For the most part, we make inquiries of the owners of bookshops and conduct an investigation into them, and the most we find is that the owners of the stores buy magazines or various books from the street."

Shaykh ibn Ghayth, confirming that, added by saying "The boards, in cooperation with the General Department of Publications, have confiscated large amounts of videotapes, especially those sold at the Ibn Qasim auction, and we have destroyed them in accordance with an order directed to the boards and the Ministry of Information and are still continuing to do so."

Dr al-Sadlan said, "No board member must confiscate anything from a person committing a violation until he has shown his card on his person, especially if it is a matter of some delicacy."

"The owner of a bookstore must not give anything to anyone, a board member or anyone else, until he has shown the card, introduction or permit delegating him to confiscate the contraband object! The citizen has the right to tell him 'Show your card or your identity.'"

Ibn Ghayth interrupted, stating "There are many people who come to the boards and make the complaint that some tapes have been confiscated from such-and-such a shop or such-and-such a bookstore and the like, and when we make an investigation into that we find, most unfortunately, that the people who have confiscated these things are not members of the board, but perhaps came in the name of the board. Therefore everyone must ask the board member for his card!

"The card contains adequate information in terms of name, address, precinct and the like."

AL-YAMAMAH: What do you consider your role during the pilgrimage season is, especially when we realize that most government departments have contributions to make during the pilgrimage season?

Counsellor Salih al-Lahidan answered by stating, "I consider the Ministry of the Interior and the general department of the boards both to be basic elements, because they concur on many issues which concern security. This, the security of this country, 's the mission; the Ministry of the Interior is a theoretical and executive government facility and the general department of boards is a theoretical and executive government facility, so each of them performs two basic important operations in regard to people coming into the country and in the life of the citizen -- theoretical security, which is guidance, and total review and concern for Islamic security and national security, the same as the general department of boards."

"Proceeding from this introduction comes the conclusion, which is that many Moslems come to the pilgrimage from areas that are remote from one another, of different and diverse races; therefore the board, as a government

facility, plays a great role in the pilgrimage season and this makes those things which are incumbent on the other government facilities which play their basic role in it incumbent on it.

"The board monitors pilgrims and provides them with Islamic indoctrination, for instance giving lectures, exhortations and guidance and presenting warnings concerning acts of apostasy and idolatry. In addition, it performs a large amount of the rulings that are handed down and accepts questions from all Moslems who ask them, and it also plays a practical role, which is to maintain security and oversee and follow up on people who try to bring harm on Islam by word or deed.

"The board concentrates all its efforts in the course of what is approximately equal to half a year, in view of the importance the pilgrimage possesses and in view of the great role the board possesses, which it must perform, and the Ministry of the Interior performs the same role. However, the practical, executive and applied aspects are greater than what the general department of the board performs. They are both government facilities, and the one supplements the other."

A Symposium run by Idris Idris and Salman al-'Umri, with the participation of:

1. Counsellor Salih Sa'd al-Lahidan, deputy chairman of the general department of boards of the command of virtue and prohibition of vice;
2. Shaykh Ibrahim al-Ghayth, general supervisor of the branch of the department in Riyadh Province.
3. Dr Salih al-Sadlan, chairman of the branch of the higher board.
4. Shaykh Murif Hasan al-Buqmi, director general of cases and investigation in the department.

11887

CSO: 4404/624

SAUDI ARABIA

SAUDI ARABIA'S READINESS TO PROVIDE AID TO LEBANON DISCUSSED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 389, 4 Aug 84 pp 28-29

[Article by Sulayman Namir: "Saudi Arabia Will Help Lebanon If Lebanon Helps Itself!"]

[Text] Saudi Arabia has informed Lebanon that it is satisfied with the steps taken to restore security and stability and that it will provide generous moral and material support if total tranquility is brought about.

When Prime Minister Rashid Karami arrived at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Airport in Jiddah, bringing both the concerns of Lebanon and its optimism, he was surprised by the fact that one of the Saudi officials who received him congratulated him on his escape from the attempt to blow up the Concorde Theater in West Beirut only a few hours before the time for the beginning of the series of speeches to be held by the National Forces in West Beirut--since Prime Minister Karami was scheduled to give a speech on that occasion. The Lebanese prime minister explained to the Saudi official that what some of the newspapers and news agencies had published concerning this matter was not at all true and that it was only a matter of an attempt to thwart the holding of this series of speeches--and that organizational rivalries were responsible for this. But Prime Minister Karami felt that the operation intended to create a disturbance which was being engaged in by some parties in Lebanon was an operation intended both to cause the Lebanese to lose hope and to prevent the Arabs--in particular, Saudi Arabia--from helping Lebanon.

The thing that amazed Prime Minister Karami and most of those accompanying him was the fact that, when he arrived at the airport in Jiddah, he saw that one of the newspapers there had published a big headline on its front page which said: "Rashid Karami Escapes Assassination Attempt." This is something which impelled him to insist on informing the Saudi king and the other Saudi leaders concerning the current situation in Lebanon and concerning the steps which had been taken--and the steps that were still to be taken--to implement the public security plan and achieve a state of stability after the improvement in the public security situation which had been successfully achieved.

It has been said that the visit by the Lebanese prime minister to Jiddah had the purpose of concentrating on the matter of gaining economic and political support for Lebanon in order that the nation be rebuilt and in order to assure the withdrawal of the invading Israeli forces from South Lebanon. The fact is that Prime Minister Karami, in his 3-hour meeting with King Fahd last Saturday evening, concentrated primarily on conveying to the Saudi king the sense of optimism which he felt by means of explaining the current Lebanese situation to him--in particular, the steps which had been taken up till then to implement the public security plan for Greater Beirut and Mount Lebanon.

King Fahd is, of course, being constantly kept informed concerning the details of the situation in Lebanon by his special envoy, Mr Rafiq al-Hariri, who returned from Beirut a few hours before the arrival of Prime Minister Karami in Jiddah. This time, though, King Fahd felt very satisfied concerning the steps which have been taken so far by the Lebanese government to provide security and a situation of stability for the citizens of Lebanon. King Fahd was especially happy to learn that most of the factions in Lebanon today are anxious to put an end to the tragedies of the war which has been going on for 10 years and that some of the obstacles and barriers which are being thrown up are attributable to the desire on the part of some people to achieve some rather simple gains or are caused by the "Israeli factor," which represents an attempt to thwart the success being achieved by the [Lebanese] government these days.

All of this was confirmed by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal when he told AL-MUSTAQBAL, after Prime Minister Karami's departure from Jiddah last Sunday, that Saudi Arabia was satisfied concerning the steps which had been taken by the Lebanese government to bring about the restoration of security and stability in Lebanon. The Saudi foreign minister not only expressed his nation's satisfaction concerning what has been implemented so far in terms of steps dealing with restoring security and stability. He also, when giving his interview to AL-MUSTAQBAL, expressed his and his nation's optimism concerning the possibility of solving all of Lebanon's problems, "especially when all of the Lebanese have good intentions." This Saudi optimism means that Prime Minister Karami was actually able to succeed in conveying his optimism to the Saudi leaders who previously had demonstrated some apprehensions concerning the fate of Lebanon and the future of the plan to save Lebanon. Saudi Arabia played a major role in creating this plan and in getting it accepted--when the Lebanese government, at the end of last February, chose the Arab option as the means of saving Lebanon and bringing salvation to it. The meeting between King Fahd and Prime Minister Karami, which was the only official meeting that Prime Minister Karami had in Jiddah, lasted only 3 hours. However, one Saudi official told AL-MUSTAQBAL that these 3 hours were more than sufficient. He said: "There were no matters concerning which disputes arose. The talks revolved around clarifying the prevailing situation in Lebanon and what Saudi Arabia could provide in terms of additional aid to consolidate the improvement in the public security situation which has taken place."

In fact there were no differences of opinion. The discussions amounted to being an exchange of opinions concerning the current situation. The two leaders agreed that it was necessary to support the security accord arrived at by the Lebanese government. One thing discussed was how to follow up on the successful security-related steps which have been undertaken by the Lebanese government and how to consolidate these steps. The Saudi leaders told Prime Minister Karami that the thing that they want for Lebanon is for Lebanese citizens to enjoy security and stability and to have the political accord between all Lebanese to be consolidated. After this is achieved, they said, everything will be easy, whether it is a matter of providing economic and material support for the process of rebuilding Lebanon or giving moral and political support for bringing about the withdrawal of the invading Israeli forces from South Lebanon. There was no difference in opinions concerning this. The economic and material aid requested by the prime minister for Lebanon in order that it accomplish the nation's reconstruction was being requested in order to strengthen the sense of optimism and buttress the hopes, felt by the citizens of Lebanon, that their country would once again become a united and stable nation. Prime Minister Karami quoted one example to one of the Saudi leaders at a dinner party held in his honor by King Fahd last Saturday evening, and the example was as follows: "When the Lebanese people see the employees and equipment of the (Ojje) of Lebanon Company on the streets once more, then they will feel a sense of optimism, reassurance, and hope. But when this company's employees and equipment disappear from the streets, then the Lebanese people feel pessimistic and are afraid that bad things will happen." This example which was quoted by Prime Minister Karami for the Saudi leader expresses the present conviction of the government that, when the process of reconstruction begins, the citizens of Lebanon will become more optimistic and the various warring factions will tire of the game of war which they are playing--especially since the work of reconstruction will employ all of the individuals and elements of the armed militias who will find themselves without employment once the fighting ends. This very simple and realistic logic was not opposed by anyone during the Lebanese-Saudi talks. In fact, AL-MUSTAQBAL has learned that King Fahd has asked one of his advisers on Lebanese affairs to prepare for him a basic report dealing with Lebanon's reconstruction and social requirements.

No one who accompanied Prime Minister Karami during his 24-hour trip to Jiddah doubts that the Lebanese prime minister emphasized Saudi Arabia's political and moral support for the measures which have been, and are still being, taken by the Lebanese government. Furthermore, the Saudi leaders told Prime Minister Karami that their nation was prepared to continue to provide the economic aid necessary for the reconstruction of Lebanon, especially if a state of complete tranquility and stability is restored there.

Actually Saudi Arabia was the only nation which provided large-scale technical and material aid to the Lebanese both during and after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June of 1982. A responsible source in Jiddah has revealed the fact that Saudi Arabia provided a total of \$12 million for aid to Lebanese Muslim and Christian families which had suffered losses during the war in

Mount Lebanon which took place in September of last year. AL-MUSTAQBAL has learned that the Lebanese government so far has received a total of \$417 million worth of Arab financial aid since the decision made by the Arab summit meeting in Tunisia in 1980 which provided for furnishing the sum of \$2 billion as aid for the reconstruction of Lebanon. There has been a cessation in the process of continuing to provide this aid because a number of the Arab nations feel that aid cannot be provided to Lebanon as long as the situation there is unstable and as long as the civil war is still going on. But now that Prime Minister Karami has provided King Fahd with an explanation concerning the measures which have been taken by the Lebanese government to restore public security in Greater Beirut, these steps will encourage Saudi Arabia to continue to provide economic aid to Lebanon. This is a fact that Prime Minister Karami was assured of [by the Saudis].

Saudi Arabia hopes to see the successful completion of the deployment of the Lebanese Army in all of the regions of Lebanon and that this deployment will also extend to North Lebanon, which is suffering from disturbances caused by various competing local militias. Saudi Arabia also feels that the restoration of public security in Lebanon and the achievement of a type of political accord among the disputing parties in Lebanon will play a major role toward bringing about the withdrawal of the invading Israeli forces from South Lebanon. This also will help Saudi Arabia to play its role vis-a-vis the U.S. in order to put pressure on Israel to withdraw from South Lebanon. Saudi Arabia is prepared to undertake this role, and this is a fact which was confirmed by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, when he told AL-MUSTAQBAL: "Saudi Arabia is prepared to engage in any effort which will aid Lebanon in any and all realms."

9468

CSO: 4404/604

PROS AND CONS OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT DISCUSSED

Riyadh AL-YAMAMAH in Arabic No 814, 8 Aug 84 pp 3-9

[Seminar Conducted by AL-YAMAMAH with Several Saudi Businessmen]

[Text] AL-YAMAMAH this week raises the issue of Saudi overseas investments. Without making a hard distinction between black and white, we want to reach an unbiased view of the advantages and disadvantages, in order to make an informed decision: should we continue along this road, or barricade it? We will be discussing our overseas funds, in the context of development and ambition, with nine prominent Saudi businessmen.

Our guests are: Deputy Secretary General of the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hamad Salih al-Humaydan; Deputy Director General and Board Chairman of the National Commercial Bank Muhammad Salim bin Mahfuz; Proprietor of ROLACO and another banking group 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sulayman; Director General of the al-'Amudi Group Ibrahim Afandi; Vice President of the al-Jumayh Organization 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jumayh; Businessman Hamid Ahmad Ba Ghaffar; Director General of the al-Husayn Commercial Group 'Abdallah al-Husayn; REDEC Board Chairman Ghayth Fir'awn Director General of the al-Subay'i Commercial Company Ibrahim 'Abdallah al-Subay'i; and Director General of the al-Radwan Commercial Company al-Radwan.

In our country, the overseas investment phenomenon was non-existent a few years ago. When it did exist, it was of marginal importance to officials, information agencies and the people, not because of remissness or disregard for the issues, but because these investments were of limited scope and insignificant volume. Consequently, this phenomenon attracted little attention until the Saudi economy began making its amazing progress over a period of less than 10 years. This investment phenomenon was born with the development boom, which is still spreading throughout our beloved land.

Non-existent Figures

In discussing the basic features of a financial phenomenon, we must use the language of figures. But, alas, as Deputy Secretary General of the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hamad Salih al-Humaydan says, we have no statistical source which would enable us to ascertain the private sector's overseas investments. In several earlier issues, AL-YAMAMAH has spoken regretfully of the lack or paucity of statistics, which has made our handling of important national issues somewhat incoherent and improvisational. The

lack of exact figures is a negative aspect of the overseas investment issue, raising growing doubt as to the phenomenon's effects on our national economy and the course of our development. The situation being such, since we are unable to determine the scope of the phenomenon, then the next step is to compare it to the figures on private sector investment within the country. Then we can determine where there is more and where there is less, and thus make an informed decision about it on the basis of what facts we have about the fruits of domestic and overseas investment.

The only figure which Mr al-Humaydan has is 51 billion Saudi riyals, the total investments made by Saudi banks in the form of overseas deposits as of the end of 1983. It is a huge figure, but we are unable to put it into perspective, because, as we have already mentioned, it is an isolated figure on which scientific light cannot be shed except in the context of other, integrated figures.

A Little or a Lot?

Therefore, let us resort to estimating, for there is no other way. Shaykh Muhammad Salim bin Mahfuz feels that Saudi capital's rush towards overseas investment is not as overwhelming as some people imagine, and that it has been exaggerated, since there is no indication of an unnatural exodus of private sector money overseas. He adds, "Every country has its own economic capabilities, and the kingdom's capabilities are definitely not infinite. Businessmen are concerned about investing their money, and it makes no sense for them to let it lie idle." Shaykh bin Mahfuz believes that foreign investment has not taken place at the expense of national development, as indicated by the fact that Saudi investors are not missing any opportunity that would benefit themselves as well as development, but are participating in it. He cites SABIC [Saudi Arabian Basic Industry Corporation] as an example of the Saudi investors' role in supporting and backing corporations. Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sulayman also emphasizes that the average investor is not strong, and does not tend to invest overseas.

His excellency also objects to the slogan "self-sufficiency," from a realistic point of view, because it has never been achieved, not even in the United States, which has tremendous economic resources.

Shaykh al-Sulayman says, "It is extremely unfortunate that we in the East have an erroneous, uneducated view of foreign investment, while the rest of the world is mastering its intricate advantages and its diversity, which obliges everyone to follow a policy of cooperation and mutual well-being. I place foreign investment in the second stage, because if there is a possibility of investing surplus Saudi capital overseas, we should not avoid it, inasmuch as it is a basic feature of the free enterprise system." Naturally, in the opinion of Shaykh al-Sulayman, the investor will not turn to other countries if he has enough room for activity in the local market. In fact, all things being equal, we find that he prefers to invest his money within his own country, where he can keep an eye on it!

The Transfer of Technology

Ghayth Fir'awn divides investment into two parts: the first part directed within the country, participating in the country's overall development regardless of profit, and the second part directed abroad, in order to further the businessman's investments within his own country! We ask in amazement how overseas investment could have such a positive effect on investment within the country. He replies, "The overseas investor cooperates with long-established companies, and he can call their attention to what is going on in his own country. Consequently, he gains technical expertise which might not be available at present in the kingdom. Not to mention the fact that the return on his overseas investment will strengthen his economic capabilities, and thus increase his participation in domestic development."

But with all due respect, this view ignores the dangers besetting Saudi capital invested overseas, aside from how this influx of abundant profit supports the private sector's participation in the kingdom's development.

Shaykh Hamid Ahmad Ba Ghaffar mentions that one inducement for the Saudi investor to invest overseas is the desire to gain high levels of technical and administrative expertise.

Ghayth Fir'awn also refers to this goal, while Director General of the al-'Amudi Group Shaykh Ibrahim Afandi objects to using the term "transfer of technology" when speaking of Saudi businessmen's material participation in Western companies. Technology is not so much a commodity offered on the market as it is experience passed on through direct practice and contact. He expresses his conviction that the large Western companies do not part with their technological expertise easily, because whenever they give it to developing countries, these companies are shaken to their roots.

The shaykh continues, "As for the smaller, weaker companies, they have no expertise worth acquiring. Therefore, Saudi participation in them gives these companies an opportunity to expand their activities at our expense!"

Shaykh Afandi does not want his words to be understood as meaning that he is totally opposed to foreign investment. Indeed, he feels that there should be such investment, but only according to a definite plan. He advises significant participation in medium-sized companies in the developed world, which would make it easy for us to acquire technical expertise seriously and wisely. Investment in real estate and bonds is surrounded by very real dangers, not to mention the fact that there is no advanced scientific and practical expertise to be gained from it.

Mythical Facilities

Some businessmen cite the easy laws some countries pass to induce foreign capital to invest in their countries as one of the factors which attract Saudi capital overseas. We counter this illogical statement with Shaykh

Ba Ghaffar's response: "I don't think any country in the world encourages investment as much as our country does, by means of the statutes it has passed benefitting the investor, whether in agriculture, industry or services."

Others say that the Saudi investor tends to invest abroad because he finds investment fields which are unavailable in his own country, or else available but insufficient. We can give an example from the experience of Ghayth Fir'awn, who believes that his experience in opening hotels in Arab countries, such as the Hyatt Regencies in Riyadh, Jeddah, Yanbu' and Jizan, has been materially successful.

Shaykh Afandi makes a pertinent observation on this, asking, "How long will we continue looking for quick profits?" He adds, "We have to begin thinking from a new, calculated viewpoint, and we have to look for ways to reduce our dependence on others and move on to self-reliance, with God's help." In Shaykh Afandi's estimation, this requires ordering our priorities differently than we have done so far. In this connection, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Husayn disagrees with the idea of hotel investment outside the kingdom. Why? Because hotels overseas have certain features and requirements which are incompatible with our beliefs. Through this door the Saudi investor enters the realm of forbidden fruit, and damages his country's reputation, whether he knows it or not.

We must add that our country, especially our resort areas and holy places, still lack suitable hotel services in keeping with the kingdom's first-rate, admirable status and resources.

Integration

On the heels of his well-founded objection, Shaykh al-Husayn proposes a basic precept for the success of our overseas investments, a precept derived from the Shari'ah, the foundation of our very being, and from our country's exalted standing in the minds of all Moslems. In brief, this precept calls for foreign investment only in Islamic countries. In this way we will achieve the happiness of both houses, and our total profits will be incalculable, because (1) we will have gained God's pleasure; (2) we will have furthered Saudi Arabia's guiding role in the Islamic world and therefore on the international scene; (3) the investor will earn permissible profit; and (4) the economies of brotherly Islamic peoples will be saved from backwardness and the talons of non-Islamic economic domination.

Shaykh al-Husayn says of the economic fruits of such a fine endeavor, "It will reflect positively on our entire national economy, not just on the investor." He illustrates this idea with the following example: "In the kingdom we are suffering from a manpower shortage, and we have to bring in more and more foreign labor, which brings with it negative social and economic effects. Sometimes we also import raw materials for the industries we are establishing in our country. Instead of all that, we could establish advanced industrial projects in those Islamic countries rich in raw materials

and manpower. The kingdom would import part of these factories' production, under reasonable terms and at reasonable prices. Thus we would achieve Islamic economic integration, and our national economy would benefit greatly."

Exporting Countries

Shaykh Hamid Ahmad Ba Ghaffar summarizes his basic position on Saudi overseas investment by quoting the well-known folk saying "A piaster in some other country is of no use to you or your son." For this reason, he asks that the larger part of investors' resources be concentrated within the country, with the smaller, surplus part invested overseas, provided that we follow priorities of which we are convinced in our minds and hearts. We should start out with Arab and Islamic countries, and if we have more money than they need, then investment in technologically and productively advanced countries can be condoned.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sulayman supports the idea of setting priorities in Saudi overseas investment. He feels that we should turn our attention towards exporting countries, from which we import large amounts of basic needs. He says, "The kingdom imports a lot of livestock from several countries. Why doesn't Saudi capital go to these countries, such as Somalia, the Sudan and Australia, and cooperate with them by investing in the necessities which we import? We would regain part of the money which we paid for these commodities!"

With all due respect for Shaykh al-Sulayman's opinion, we feel that Shaykh al-Husayn's and Shaykh Ba Ghaffar's views on this matter are more comprehensive, and more in keeping with our national spirit founded on the true religion. Our national economic interests are important, and no one is calling for their abandonment. If, in our investments in Arab and Islamic countries, we achieve our national interests and the interests of our brothers as well, then we consider that an inseparable part of our standing in the hearts of our brothers in belief, history and interests.

Ten Percent

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jumayh says, "The facilities which our enlightened government provides Saudi investors are a practical indication of its desire for investment projects suited to the interests of the individual and society. The businessmen must primarily concern themselves with domestic projects, and must help build a strong industrial and agricultural infrastructure." He emphasizes the nation's need for the money being directed towards overseas investment, as indicated by the fact that foreign capital is being invested in our country. If the Saudi investors' capital remained here, the government would not have to admit foreign capital into the country.

Shaykh 'Abdallah Radwan is of a similar opinion, saying that during the coming stage an attempt must be made to get the Saudi investor within the

kingdom to take the place of the foreign investor. Therefore, Saudi investment overseas reduces the possibility of achieving this important national goal.

Shaykh Ibrahim 'Abdallah al-Subay'i proposes allocating no more than 10 percent of capital for participation in overseas investment projects. While we realize that this is only an opinion, and is not based on any exact figures on the volume of domestic or foreign private capital, this notion is still worth noting and discussing, and is yet another indication of how important statistics are for our development, especially since in addition to proposing this percentage, Shaykh al-Subay'i emphasizes the kingdom's real need for all types of investment, including foreign investment.

His excellency places the responsibility for applying the resolutions of the Damman businessmen's conference directly on the nation's businessmen, since the conference's most important resolution called for increasing the private sector's participation in local development plans.

The Open Economy

The vice president of the Riyadh chamber of commerce voices the chamber's viewpoint: "The chamber takes every opportunity to call for domestic investment of Saudi capital, in order to support our national economy, and for the exploitation of all available investment opportunities--industrial, agricultural, commercial and services." Shaykh al-Humaydan adds, "But we must not forget that the open economy needs overseas investment. Just as there are foreign investments within the kingdom in various economic sectors, so there are Saudi investments abroad. There is no doubt that these investments benefit our economy, and not just financially. There is also the acquisition of experience and the transfer of technology. But the overseas investor has to carefully scrutinize investment fields, their proper channels, and the financial and legal circumstances. Not long ago the press published a report about a spurious bank in England, in which some Arab Gulf citizens deposited their money. Several years later they discovered that they had fallen into a swinder's trap. Therefore, anyone investing overseas must not be deceived by names, tempting announcements and alleged volumes of activity!"

Our Point of View

This is the overall picture which we wanted to present, with the help of well-connected persons of good social standing and tangible economic experience. In order to summarize all the different viewpoints and opinions we have presented, we would like to add the following points to the ones expressed in the last few pages.

(1) We propose that a scientific seminar be held on the issue, in which the Finance, Trade, Planning, Agriculture, and Industry Ministries will participate, along with chambers of commerce and businessmen. This seminar's main function will be to arrive at a comprehensive view of the situation,

after carefully examining the statistics, and to decide what should be done in light of our development ambitions, domestic investment opportunities, and foreign investment circumstances, inasmuch as there are strong reasons for retaining it.

2. We call on Saudi businessmen, all of whom, by the grace of God, are Moslems concerned with aiding their religion, to do their utmost to invest their money in Arab and Islamic countries, because of the favorable religious and secular results of this course of action mentioned earlier. Our brothers need capital, and they would prefer the Saudi investor, the "Moslem investor", over the foreign investor, who is trying to exploit their country's resources.

3. We hope that the Saudi investors who have overseas investments will participate in the production sectors, which will help us gain technical expertise in such fields as computers, petrochemicals and so forth.

At the same time, we are convinced that the Saudi investor is concerned about the hereafter, and about his noble country's reputation, for investment in what God has forbidden will lead to perdition and dishonor in this world and the next.

8559

CSO: 4404/622

ADMINISTRATOR DISCUSSES TISHRIN HOSPITAL ACHIEVEMENT

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 18 May 84 p 4

[Article by Huda al-'Abud: "Tishrin Hospital, First of Its Kind in the Area, Accommodates 1,032 Beds"]

[Text] The Tishrin Military Hospital is one of the great achievements that have been accomplished over the years of the rectification movement. In the health sector, this hospital is considered foremost in its level of technical sophistication, its many specialized areas of treatment, and its surgery. It is one of the shining testaments to our modern cultural awakening.

Lt Col Muhyi-al-Din 'Id, administrative officer of the hospital, talked about the beginnings of work on this large structure and the distribution of the various departments. He said: "The cornerstone for the Tishrin Military Hospital project was laid on 8 March 1975. Work began in earnest on this project in May of the following year. The work continued in a rapid series of steps until the dedication of the project by the president of the country in 1982. The hospital is equipped with high technology and employs the finest doctors in all specialities. The hospital employs 15 specialists, 100 other doctors, and 176 nurses. To enable us to treat all medical conditions in the hospital, we sought out some foreign expertise from the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and Bulgaria. This is due to the fact that we receive patients at amazing rates, especially since the hospital admits all who are connected with the armed forces and their dependents and all citizens in emergency conditions.

Departments of the Hospital

"The hospital consists of a number of departments, including the department of urology, neurology, and X-ray; the department of surgery and burns; a department for the industrial college, a dialysis department, and an open-heart surgery department.

In addition, the hospital has the most modern laboratory in the Middle East and a department for functional scans (includes hearing plus brain scan). There is also the [al-tabaqi al-mihwari] equipment and the sterilization department."

The administrative officer continued:

"The hospital is among the largest, with 1,032 beds distributed among the various wings and departments."

"The occupancy rate for these beds is 70 percent, allowing for the fact that a portion of the beds are for resident doctors, nurses, a daycare center for hospital employees, and a school for nurses which graduates some 40 nurses in each class."

With the Patients

After this interview, we had a series of meetings with a number of patients. Citizen Umm Khalid talked about how her hopes were dashed when she had to return to one of the private sector hospitals. She said: "I was carrying a tub of washing while cleaning house when I felt a sharp pain in the kidneys. However, the medicine they gave me did not help! At the insistence of my son, I went to a private hospital. After the examination, they decided that there was no problem with the kidneys, but that I needed a operation. Fearing that my illness would get worse, they performed an operation on me which left my legs paralyzed from about the thigh. After this, my son carried me to Tishrin Hospital." Asking God to prolong her health and life, she concluded her remarks by saying: "I am now undergoing physical therapy and I have begun to get better."

Treatment is Half of the Medicine

In a second conversation, a young recruit in the Syrian Arab Army said: "I took my sister to the nearest hospital for treatment. The examination revealed that she had headaches resulting from weakness and inflammation of her eyes. After a period of 15 days, no improvement had occurred due to the evident neglect of the doctors. Therefore, I picked her up and brought her to this hospital where she began to improve with every passing day. At this point I asked myself a question: I am a soldier who is sacrificing himself for every citizen without exception. So why do some doctors not provide help to the citizens in the hospitals as they do in their own clinics and hospitals?"

Open Heart Surgery

A little girl only 5 years old was brought in by her mother on the advice of a doctor for a heart valve operation. The mother said: "I suffered from the same disease 10 years ago and had an operation abroad which was very expensive. Even so, I did not feel completely satisfied. Then I met Dr Ahmad Zaki Sukkar, who performed a second operation on me. Now I stand before you in good health, and I am now waiting for the doctor on account of my daughter. I thank the president for his care of the citizens because he has saved us many hardships. My treatment abroad cost me almost everything I owned, but now it is the state that is bearing the expenses."

The Hospital Graduates Medical Specialists

Mention must also be made of the work of a large academy operated by the hospital. This academy accepts resident doctors and provides them with all requirements. The residents spend 3 academic years in a particular speciality after which they graduate with a specialized degree. The resident doctor is given a bedroom, a bathroom, a kitchen, and a telephone, and this is everything he needs. This is what is provided to any doctor in the most advanced countries in the world!

Visitors Do Not Maintain Silence and Order

Lt Col Muhyi-al-Din 'Id said:

"There are significant numbers of visitors in some sections of the hospital: women carrying infants and other women of advanced ages. One or more visitors stand by every bed, making a noisy fuss over the patient they have come to visit. Moreover, each room accommodates two or more beds. During the visit, the patient can get no rest at all. The confusion is made worse by the crowd of people on the elevators with doctors and nurses. You see them standing in front of one elevator leaving four or five others unused. This is because of their ignorance about the way the elevators operate.

"Accompanying all this are the many vehicles inside and outside the hospital grounds with their honking horns and exhaust. All this affects the patient. Concerning this problem, one of the doctors said: 'We are a compassionate people. In many cases I can't refuse to admit the mother of a patient who has come from the north of the country to visit her child. But this situation is an exception. The order of the hospital should be enforced completely.'"

8591

CSO: 4404/582

NEW PROVINCES UNDERWAY IN HAMAH PROVINCE

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 24 May 84 p 3

[Article by Mahmud al-Hamud]

[Text] It is no exaggeration to say that the city of Hamah in particular and Hamah Province in general are a hive of activity, giving and building to accomplish additional service and investment projects. Taken together, these projects are the main avenue toward the province's cultural and developmental progress.

Some 600 million pounds have been allocated to fund a number of projects now being implemented in the province. This huge sum represents only a part of what is being built in all areas of the province. Engineer Ahmad Jukhdar, member of the executive office of the Hamah Province council for the services and municipalities sector, talked to us about these projects.

New Trade Markets

Work has been initiated on the construction of the al-Tawil market according to the latest development plans. This project includes the construction of residential buildings, offices, specialized storage buildings, and warehouses. The roadway for this market is 10 meters wide and each sidewalk is 4 meters in width. A main street connects the market with the monument to the south and with the citadel road to the north in accordance with proven scientific and engineering principles.

Another project calls for the construction of a commercial market with residential high-rises in the al-Barudiyah area. Construction operations will begin after completion of the necessary plans. Work has now begun on the remodeling and modernizing of al-Kharban market and work is now in progress on the artisans market being constructed in the al-Sharqiyah area.

Large Residential Projects

Work is being carried out at a rapid pace to complete the Abu al-Fida' suburb project. This project, which includes 500 dwelling units and is 4 stories high, is being implemented for the Hamah City council. The project is being constructed on 150 hectares and will have public facilities

including streets, gardens, schools, public squares, and kindergartens. To date, some 50 apartments have been completed and 1,000 apartments have been framed out. The project is 30-percent complete. In other activity, the necessary studies and plans for construction of the neighborhoods of al-Sabil and Tishrin have been completed. These neighborhoods, located on the Halab road, will contain residential apartments and public facilities. In addition, implementation of the residential project in the al-Zabaqi area in Hamah has begun. This project will consist of 8 stories with basements, 41 commercial shops, and 87 offices. Four residential blocks will be built along Sa'id al-'As Street.

Bridges and Roads

One of the most important bridges now nearing completion is the al-Malik al-Afdal Bridge, which spans the al-'Asi River in the city of Hamah. The cost of this bridge is 20 million Syrian pounds. The bridge, which is 120 meters long and 30 meters wide, consists of two sections with an island in between. The bridge will be completed in a month at most and will connect with the Hamah Citadel road. In addition, the first section of the Hamah highway connection has been completed and put into service. Work is now underway to complete the 15-kilometer second section. Eight bridges are located on the highway. These bridges are highway junctions which eliminate intersections with side roads. The highway branch also includes 100 run-offs to drain rainwater. Paving and asphaltting are being carried out on 1.5 kilometers of Nasr ibn Sayyar road, 3 kilometers of al-Quda road, and 3 kilometers of Dhi Qar road. All of these roads are boulevards.

Road projects were also implemented from last year's independent budget for some 3 villages in addition to a group of roads now being worked on and nearing completion. Roads have been constructed for other villages from last year's investment budget at a cost of 20 million Syrian pounds.

New Cultural Centers

Construction work on the structure for the new cultural center in Hamah is nearing completion. The various sections of this center include a library, an exhibition hall, a theater, meeting halls, administrative buildings, buildings for services, gardens, and public squares. New cultural centers will be built in the village of Suran and in the city of al-Salamiyah.

Outstanding Medical Projects

The Military Construction Implementation Organization is building the 5-story al-Asad Medical Complex, which will include clinics, infirmaries, buildings for the medical committees and forensic medicine, and a health center. In addition, health clinics will be built in the city of al-Salamiyah, the municipalities of al-Saburah, Tayyibah al-Amam, and Kafrzayta, and in the village of al-Shaykh Hilal. Contracts have been signed for the construction of two model hospitals, one in the city of Misyaf and the other in the city of al-Suqaylabiyah. Each hospital will have 120 beds.

Educational Buildings

Some 181 educational departments have been completed for elementary schools as well as 14 enclosure walls for schools. Work has been initiated on 302 additional departments distributed among all areas of the province. Some 199 educational departments have been completed for secondary schools. Remodeling projects for the schools have been completed in various areas of the province at a cost of 1 million Syrian pounds.

Water and Well Projects

The water project for Tall al-'Aziz, Dalabiyah, al-Shakari, Kafr 'Aqid, Sanan, Sayfanah, and al-Hurt al-Charbi has been completed. The Tamin al-Siyad and 'Awaj Abu Hubaylat water projects have also been completed. Arab-style wells have been dug in 25 villages and the digging of Western-style wells continues in other villages. Artesian wells have been dug successfully in 23 villages and work continues in other villages. Work is still in progress on water projects for Sitr'ayn, al-Banah, and Abu 'Abidah and water storage tanks are being erected in Shayzar as well as an underground reservoir for the Misyaf water project. Other projects under way include underground storage tanks for the Ba'amrah water project, water collection for Qarmas-al-Na'unah, the installation of water mains and storage tanks in Suran, and the al-Barid River project. The elevated storage tank in the village of al-Hawa'iq has been completed, as has the pouring of the underground storage tank in Tall 'Amurayn. Other projects completed include the al-Salamiyah water project and the water farm projects in al-Wadi, al-Salihah, and al-Mansurah. A large number of water projects are still in progress.

Projects To Be Implemented This Year

A number of projects will be completed under the independent budget for this year, including the following:

--Some 25 new water projects and the completion of 6 projects already begun.

--Some 18 new projects for school buildings and the completion of 22 projects.

--Funds have been allocated for road projects including the implementation of 38 new projects and 18 projects already in progress. Additional sums have been allocated for the implementation of sanitary drainage projects and the completion of projects for clinics in al-Rabi'ah, Qasr al-Mukhram, Qamhanah, and al-Turaymisah.

In addition, a project for a treatment station for sanitary drainage in the city of Hamah will be implemented. The necessary funds for the first phase of this important project have been allocated. A project for a treatment station in the city of al-Salamiyah will also be implemented.

No matter how many projects we have completed, there are still many more under completion and initiation. The most important of these is the new tourist hotel that will be built on a 7,000 square-meter site and will include 80 rooms, halls, restaurants, swimming pools, gardens, offices and playgrounds. This hotel will be built in the Eastern style.

8591

CSO: 4404/582

BANIYAS POWER STATION DIRECTOR DETAILS ANTI-POLLUTION UNIT

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 28 May 84 p 3

[Article by Muhammad 'Ali 'Umran: "Anti-Pollution Units at Baniyas Thermal Station Perform Their Job Perfectly"]

[Text] Pollution is considered one of the major effects of 20th -century civilization, threatening the health of man, animals, and plants. Among the main sources of pollution are heavy industries, chemical industries, crude oil refining, and the various industries in the field of power generation. While it is extremely difficult to assess the material damage caused by pollution, the industrial revolution is considered one of the foremost causes of pollution.

Dr 'Adnan Ma'ruf, director of Baniyas Thermal Station, talked about sources of pollution arising from the station and the methods used to deal with them. He said:

"There are three major potential types of pollution resulting from the thermal station in Baniyas seawater pollution, air pollution, and noise pollution.

Seawater pollution

"Because of the proximity of the station to the sea and the station's use of seawater for cooling purposes, the seawater is treated for pollutants before it is discharged back into the sea. To accomplish this, three separate discharge systems were built at the station, as follows:

"1. The system for water containing fuel oil. Three types of fuel oil are used in the station: mazut [heavy fuel oil] for start-up, fuel for continuous operation, and crude oil for emergencies. For this reason special storage tanks were constructed for each type of fuel with a pumping and discharge station. Also, a special drainage system was constructed for the area containing the storage tanks. The pumping and emptying station for this system is equipped with a specially designed excavation called the separation pit. If the tanks are flooded or in the event that water escapes into this area, the runoff will drain into the separation pit where the fuel oil will be separated from the water based on differences in specific gravity.

"2. The saline water system installed in the station and the residential area. This system terminates with a treatment unit installed to prevent pollution from saline water.

"3. The rainwater system. Because there is no pollution in rainwater, it is drained into the sea clean and free of any pollutants.

Cooling Water Used in the Station

"The station uses seawater for its cooling water, pumping 17,500 cubic meters per hour for each unit in an open-loop cooling system. Therefore, a certain amount of treatment is performed on this water to protect the condenser and the cooling loop from corrosion. To accomplish this, calcium hypochlorite is added to achieve a concentration of 5 milligrams per liter at the inlet to the seawater pumps. The hypochlorite dissolves and the active chlorine attempts to oxidize the mosses, algae, and organisms found around the condenser pipes. One of the properties of hypochlorite is that it dissolves at a temperature of 45 degrees Centigrade. Therefore, the cooling water exiting from the condenser does not contain chlorine, and so the harmful effect of chlorine on seawater is eliminated.

"The second substance added to the seawater is from bisulfate to a concentration of 5 milligrams per liter. The benefit of this compound is that it forms thin protective layers on the condenser pipe walls which protect the metal from possible corrosion by the action of seawater. It is well known that this compound is not harmful to living creatures.

"As for hypochlorite, it is not generally harmful and is used in swimming pools to quickly kill bacteria at very low levels of treatment. This is considered one of the general and health criteria of comparative experiments in chemical hygiene.

Pollution Resulting From Sulfur Oxides

"The thermal station is equipped with two boilers which burn all types of fuel. When needed for start-up, mazut [heavy fuel oil] is burned. In emergency situations, crude oil is burned. Under normal operation, the boilers burn [mustajir] fuel from Bañiyas Refinery via a special line built for this purpose. Each boiler has a 125-meter stack and burns 38 tons of fuel per hour at maximum load for each unit.

"The main air pollutant is sulfur, and therefore the rate of pollution decreases whenever the percentage of sulfur in the fuel decreases. Sulfur exits the stack in the form of sulfur dioxide gas. In the presence of water vapor and sunlight, sulfur oxides are converted into sulfur-based acids which affect the environment in general.

Means of Eliminating Sulfur Oxides

"There are two means of dealing with sulfur oxides, as follows:

--reducing the percentage of sulfur used by treatment with hydrogen. Of course, whenever the percentage of sulfur in the fuel goes down the price goes up.

--removing sulfur dioxide from the flue gas by treating it in a spray tower by means of an alkaline solution. Approximately 90 to 95 percent of the [sulfur dioxide] gas can be removed by either of the two means: by the use of nonrecycled chemicals or by the use of recycled chemicals."

Dr Ma'ruf was asked, Can we control sulfur dioxide in the thermal station?

He answered: "In the thermal station, there is no treatment of the flue gas. All gases produced by combustion are discharged directly into the air through a tall stack. The stack is designed so that the diameter at the base is twice the diameter at the top. This design increases and accelerates the discharge of the gas from the stack into the upper atmosphere.

"The level of pollution varies depending on the direction of the wind. When there is a westerly wind, all the gases move inland, which increases their effect on the area. A majority of the winds are westerly. On the other hand, in the case of an easterly wind, the acids have no effect because they are deposited in the ocean. The amount of pollution also varies according to the season. In the summer, the level of pollution is greater in the evening than in the morning. This is due to the fact that the gases spread during the day and move toward the sea where the earth is cool, and the opposite happens at night. The amount of pollution also varies according to the nature of the earth.

Nitrogen Oxides

"All processes in which the combustion of fuel takes place generate nitrogen oxides, which are considered pollutants. The major harmful effects produced by these oxides are:

1. Irritation of the eyes and nose and damage to the respiratory system.
2. Arresting of plant growth.
3. Corrosion of metals.

"These oxides are reduced by the following means:

--decreasing the flame temperature by recirculating the hot flue gas or by injecting water or steam with the fuel.

--reducing the concentration of oxygen in the flame zone.

--treating the flue gas by ammonia injection.

--making mechanical modifications in the design of the burners.

Noise

"Noise in the cities is considered one of the most important side effects of development. Doctors agree that noise has harmful effects on the human body. In the thermal station during operation, the noise level is very low. Noise has been minimized by putting silencers on the intakes of the boiler induced draft fans, which are the main source of noise in the station."

8591

CSO: 4404/582

LACK OF SANITATION MAJOR CAUSE OF MUJAHIDIN CASUALTIES

Paris LE MONDE in French 29-30 Jul 84 p 7

[Article by Jean-Louis Conne: "Those Stubborn Red Cross People..."]

[Text] In Afghanistan, the war is being rendered more murderous by the lack of sanitation, which, in the absence of medical personnel and equipment, condemns most of the wounded to death. It takes more than this to discourage the people of the Red Cross. Chased out of the country, they operate and provide care beyond the border. But the problem is to get to them...

Peshawar--"Allah is the greatest." The mujahid, his leg blown off, prays and suffers without complaining on a stained bed of the field hospital that has been installed by the RCIC [Red Cross International Committee] in Peshawar, capital of the Pakistani Northwest Frontier. He observes with surprise the young Swiss nurse who introduces the needle into his arm for a blood transfusion. The freedom fighter appears a bit taken aback at seeing this young, unveiled infidel thus dispensing care to him.

What this freedom fighter does not know is that the blood that is now trickling drop by drop into his body to replace that which he has lost, in the name of Allah, in the mountains of Afghanistan, was drawn from the veins of a good German Protestant. Despite the information drives the RCIC conducts without letup among the fighters, it is exceedingly difficult to convince these thousands of potential blood donors to give up a little of their blood for their "brothers" wounded in combat. Since a good Muslim must arrive in Paradise "intact," giving his blood is contrary to the spirit of Islam. At least, that is what many, for the most part illiterate, fighters believe. This is why the blood needed for the wounded in the fighting must be brought in by plane from the FRG [Federal Republic of Germany] twice a month!

That is but one example of the difficulties being encountered by the RCIC in coming to the aid of the thousands of victims of the conflict. The publicity that surrounds the few Soviet prisoners being transferred to Switzerland, through the good offices of the Geneva-based organization, has more than

eclipsed other more important aspects of the aid the organization is bringing to the victims of the war, of the machine-gunnings, of the bombardments and of the mines, which are killing civilians and combatants alike.

Advanced First Aid Units

"To come to the aid of victims of the conflict, we tried first to install ourselves at the heart of the problem; that is, in Afghanistan," we are told by Francois Zen Ruffinen, head of the RCIC delegation in Peshawar. "In January 1980, we were authorized to go to Kabul. But by June, the authorities had already asked us to leave. We returned there in August 1982; and again, in October, it was made known to us that we were undesirables."

The RCIC is powerless to impose its presence and cannot go to Afghanistan to work unless it is asked to. That is the reality of an international law that is outdated by the modern aspect of conflicts.

But at RCIC headquarters in Geneva, there are some self-willed heads, some tough Swiss minds, determined to maintain, where there is nothing but hatred, a symbol of humanity. And so they designated Francois Zen Ruffinen to continue flying the flag of the Red Cross against this Islamic backdrop. This ex-lawyer from Valais, 38, whose first-hand experience has included the war in Cyprus, the entry of the Red Khmers into Phnom Penh, Khomeyni's Islamic revolution, and the RCIC's setbacks in Kabul, first installed, in Pakistan, a delegation of some 50 expatriates and 500 local employees, distributed along the Afghan border.

In May 1981, a 100-bed hospital was installed at Peshawar. Two years later, a subdelegation was formed more to the south, at Queta, a Baluchistan town known for its desert warfare school, commanded at one time by Montgomery in person. Here also, a 50-bed surgical hospital was installed in an untenanted residence. Bernard Grunenfelder, 37, a native of Saint-Gall and a veteran of RCIC operations in Cambodia and Iran, was appointed to head this new delegation. He is at ease in the meanderings of this medieval conflict. He succeeded in gaining the respect and trust of the Afghan mujahidin and their chiefs and eventually negotiated the arrival in Switzerland of the first Soviet citizen being held by the freedom fighters in Baluchistan, the soldier Constantin Nicolaev Ivanovitch, a 21-year-old youngster.

But the French-speaking Swiss Francois Zen Ruffinen and the German-speaking Swiss Bernard Grunenfelder felt that Peshawar and Queta were too distant from the border. So, they created advance first-aid units at the gates of Afghanistan, simple earthen shelters served by ambulances, where the wounded find an Afghan male nurse capable of administering first aid to them. To the north, stations appeared at Parachinar, Miranshar and Wana. To the south, at Chaman, a small town linked to Queta by an ancient steam railroad, which is used to transport the wounded to the hospital. Another station has been set up at Badini, a freedom fighters' strong point, very distant from the last Pakistani border guard station.

The Unused Mobile Hospital

"Up to this point, the road was still good. The worst is yet to come!" Bernard Grunenfeld and I had been traveling this road for 11 hours now, in the direction of Badini. Eleven hours over a dreadful road that winds its way through a surrealistic environment of mountains and valleys, marked from time to time by the disquieting silhouette of a brown earthen strongpoint or the tents of nomads, milled around by a mass of turbaned humanity.

"For the Afghan wounded, who have had to plod muleback, sometimes as much as 2 weeks, to reach Badini, this section represents the end of their calvary: 'Only' 15 hours more of road ahead to reach the hospital at Queta!"

Meanwhile, a mobile hospital divided into four gigantic tracked, armored vans, built in Hamburg and worth close to 20 million Swiss francs--a gift from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan--has remained idle not far from the RCIC hospital at Queta. Someone in Djedda evidently forgot to supply medical teams capable of making its ultramodern equipment work: An operating theater, a television X-ray system, an intensive care unit. "Since we don't know how to use it, we have, until now, operated on only one person... for hemorrhoids," I was told by the Pakistani male nurse, the custodian of this treasure whose equivalent value is almost double the annual budget for all of the RCIC's activities in Pakistan!

Since the beginnings of these activities, into which 15 million Swiss francs are put annually, the RCIC's surgical teams, brought in on a rotational basis from Denmark, FRG, New Zealand, Great Britain, Australia, Italy and Switzerland, have performed more than 8,000 operations at the Peshawar field hospital and more than 1,000 at the Queta one. This gives some idea of the magnitude of the suffering the Afghans are enduring. "Even so, the wounded who manage to get here represent only a small part of the reality," sighs Dr Charles-Henri Rochat, a surgeon here from Geneva. "The fighter who receives a high-speed bullet in his belly stands hardly any chance whatever of surviving 15 days of travel by muleback. On the other hand, various medical reasons give the double amputee a reasonable chance of making it to us." There are also many wounded in the pitched battles among the moujahidin of the different factions of the resistance. "See that man? He claims to have been wounded in a battle against the Russians. The fact is his behind is lacerated with bayonet wounds. I doubt that the Soviets charge in that manner in the Afghan mountains! That other one was half strangled and had received a bullet in his belly. It is certainly the result of a donnybrook among resistance fighters. But as far as we are concerned, they are merely men that must get medical attention." When, a little later, I saw Charles-Henri Rochat again, not a word did he speak to me. He had just amputated both the hands of a little girl.

Why Spare the Prisoners?

"Holding up to me the stump of his amputated arm, a moujahid pleaded: 'Just attach a little fork to this on which I can rest my rifle,'" recounted Jean-Daniel Ducret, an RCIC physiotherapist who has already "fixed up" or fitted

over 1,000 victims of mines with peg legs. "The pride, the courage of these people is extraordinary! Look!" A short distance away, a man was approaching step by step, alone, ramrod straight and haughty. In place of his two legs, two metal pipes.

"Why not kill our prisoners? Those facing us are doing the same thing!" The commanders of the mujahidin, gathered together in a small room where the portrait of Henri Dunant occupies a place of honor, gaze in astonishment at the infidel Paul Fruh as he talks to them--Muslims, mind you--about the Red Cross, talks to them about strange humanitarian conventions decreed long ago by a Swiss businessman. "In a region of the world where the law of retaliation is a matter of honor and where the RCIC and humanitarian principles are totally unknown, we have had to organize information seminars for the chiefs of the resistance fighters. More than 3,500 of them have already gone through this process, receiving at the same time training in first aid and first aid kits before returning to the interior of Afghanistan. But mentalities are not changed in a matter of a day," says Paul Fruh. "While they may spare, today, the lives of their Soviet prisoners, the same will not hold true for the soldiers of the Afghan Army who fall into their hands!"

There are also all the other delegates--those of whom there are so many as to make it impossible to mention them all by name: Salvator, that great-hearted administrator, and Anne, who looks after the hundred or so men and women who will never walk again and who are waiting in the new paraplegia center created by the RCIC. Apart from all of this, a number of 20-year-old Soviet prisoners wallow, beside themselves with anguish, in the deepest of dungeons of the resistance. Somewhere along the border, seated on a rug where a number of grim commanders of mujahidin have taken their places, Bernard Grunenfelder negotiates. Tomorrow, perhaps, another Soviet will arrive in Switzerland...

9399

CSO: 4619/67

IRAN

WHEAT STOCKPILE REPORTED TO BE LARGEST IN 50 YEARS

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 26 Aug 84 p 2

[Text] During the last 8 months around 900,000 tons of flour and wheat have been transported in the city of Tehran and distributed among 5,000 bakeries and 33 flour mills.

The capacity of the country's silos has reached 1.2 million tons, and this is in addition to the 500,000 ton capacity of the warehouses and storage facilities of the flour mills. Mohammad Javad 'Asemi-Pur, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Acting Director of the National Grain Organization, held an interview for Government Week yesterday in which he announced this and reviewed the major activities of this organization.

He said: Prior to the issuance of the Imam of the nation's order through the Prime Minister concerning the assumption of responsibility by the Grain Organization, in many silos there wasn't even a day's supply. In the interval, with efforts made, it may be announced today that the nation's wheat supply is the largest in 50 years; it is estimated that in some silos there is enough to last seven months to a year.

He added: Stocks in these quantities are noteworthy even in comparison to international statistics. He then said: Another of last year's problems was assuming the responsibility for transporting wheat and flour from the silos to the flour mills and bakeries; this was accomplished in a desirable manner by this organization. In the past this work was accomplished with difficulty, and one of the main reasons was last year's crises. In this connection he said: There are five thousand bakeries and 33 flour mills operating in greater Tehran, and the timely distribution of flour and wheat to these units gave the Grain Organization an outstanding reputation, and at the present time there are no difficulties in this area.

Continuing, 'Asemi-Pur added: During the past 8 months around 900,000 tons of grain and wheat have been transported in Tehran; this plan now includes affiliated municipalities such as Karaj, and it will be applied to the centers of the other provinces as well. 'Asemi-Pur then added: The Grain Organization has been able to handle 97 percent of the expected imports, so that there is no noticeable backlog in the transport of grain from ports.

With regard to the construction and utilization of new silos in the country, he said:

The Semnan (Shahr-e Kord) and Yasuj silos, each with a capacity of 27,500 tons, and the Mashhad silo with a capacity of 113,000 tons, became permanently operational in 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984]; the Neka silos, with a capacity of 102,000 tons (from 27,500 tons) and the Arak and Qom silos, each with a capacity of 25,000 tons, were placed into temporary operation; and the Neka expansion silo with a capacity of 58,000 tons was ready for use at the beginning of Government Week.

He announced that the total capacity of the country's silos is 1.2 million tons, and said: Of this amount, 590,000 tons were available before the revolution; the 1.2 million ton figure is in addition to 500,000 tons in warehouse capacity and the space available in the large stockpiling facilities at the flour mills. He added: In view of the position of the superpowers towards the Islamic revolution, it is necessary to increase storage capacity, and the Majlis can help us by enacting the necessary legislation.

He then referred to the quantities of wheat purchased from farmers beyond consumption levels. He said: Until 20 July 1984 more than 750,000 tons of wheat were purchased from farmers, and in view of the amounts in the purchasing centers which have not yet been transported to the silos, the quantities purchased are considerably greater than this.

He said: The quantities purchased have increased by more than 100 percent in some provinces. The reason for this is that the Grain Organization is committed this year to meet the flour needs of all non-bakery guilds at the silos at last year's fixed prices. This requires that any increase in prices of non-bread food crops be prevented. This has also resulted in several-fold price increases for wheat and flour on the free market over last year's prices. This year there was only a very slight change in the government purchase price over last year.

9310

CSO: 4640/405

MONTAZERI RECOMMENDS COVERT SUPERVISION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 27 Aug 84 p 12

[Text] A gathering of staff members, workers, and officials from organizations in the Municipality of Qom, along with families of army and revolutionary guard martyrs from various cities met yesterday with Ayatollah al-Ozma Montazeri to commemorate Government Week. After the expression of condolences for the martyrdom of His Holiness Javad al-A'imah (Peace Be Upon Him) and Government Week greetings by the small son of one of the martyrs, he gave a detailed speech. He said: Above all else, I wish to express condolences for the martyrdom of His Holiness Imam Javad (Peace Be Upon Him), and I hope that God will grant all of us the good fortune to be the partisans of that gentleman, and imitate him in all things. He then offered Government Week greetings to the respected government and all national figures. He said: Since this week has been declared Government Week to promote better understanding between the government and the people, and I have been more exposed to the requests, views, and complaints of various groupings of people, and since most of them have requests, complaints, or criticism of every organization and group and refer directly to me through letters, telegrams, or direct contact, I therefore take it upon myself to act as spokesman for the various groupings of people and to present some of their desires to the government, which has always been supported by the people and the Majlis. In this connection he said: There is no doubt that the government could do nothing if it did not rest on the support of the people. You will notice that if it were not for the people's help, neither the war fronts, the rear echelons, nor the numerous reconstruction projects which have been carried out would have been administered. The same is true for all other affairs. The executive organizations must therefore constantly work to satisfy the requests, meet the needs, and solve the problems of the very self-sacrificing people of ours. On the other hand, a human being does not live twice, gaining experience in one life and applying it in the next. Therefore, now as the government has received a renewed and decisive vote of confidence from the Majlis, it is actually a new life for the government where it must apply its experience. If there were mistakes during the previous term in some activities and projects, or if it encountered difficulties in some tasks, it is to be expected that it will not persist with those same mistakes. In the same connection, he referred to the rice project as an example. He said: A minister told me that the government was not successful in the rice project and must review it. Ayatollah al-Ozma Montazeri said: One of the factors that usually creates

popular dissatisfaction with the administrations is the existence of some uncommitted and unsound people in some administrative posts. If an organization staffed mostly by honorable and service-oriented people has one or two people who are uncommitted, self-interested, or troublemakers, this is itself enough to divert the people's work, with applicants being referred to today, tomorrow, this room and that room, and naturally many of the people from these deprived groups will be dissatisfied. In my view, the government must not stop at following guidelines; these are no more than paper. The government must send covert and qualified inspectors to the cities to study administrative work and the quality of administrative encounters with the people first hand. It must encourage and promote those in every organization or administration who serve and are committed, and conversely, it must punish and at least demote, or suspend from service and ultimately discharge the troublemakers, the self-interested, and sometimes the counterrevolutionaries.

He said: One of the affairs being discussed which leads to popular dissatisfaction is the existence of crippling administrative laws and mundane paper shuffling, which has unfortunately been inherited from the former regime and has yet to be incorporated into the revolution, and is so bad that in order to accomplish a minor task one hapless individual must abandon his own affairs for several days in order to report to several offices, several individuals, rooms, desks, and this one and that one. Even so, his task may not be accomplished, because despite the fact that around 6 years have passed since the revolution, such superfluous laws and offices still exist. In my view, the government could eliminate and consolidate surplus and duplicated offices with a single revolutionary decision, put pressure on the Majlis to enact new revolutionary laws, and ask it to think with the government in order to make preparations for an administrative revolution for this system of paper shuffling, repetitive offices and crippling laws which take the time of the people and accomplish nothing. He added: In some places, where, due to weak management, there is an official who lacks the ability to properly perform the task assigned to him, the people become dissatisfied. In some places, due to non-observance of regulations and non-intervention, or, God forbid, due to bribery and the like, the people do not attribute all of these things to such and such an office or such and such an official; instead they attribute it to the government, Islam, the clergy, and even the leader of the revolution and his partisans in Qom. Administrative corruption, in whatever form it may take, must be vigorously and decisively fought, and work must be assigned at the outset to competent and worthy people. The mere saying of extra prayers or membership in the Hezbollah, as important and valuable as those things are, are not sufficient qualifications for taking on responsibility. Serious decisions must be made concerning the self-interested and troublemakers, so that this minority will be reckoned with differently than the majority of honorable and committed officials and staff in the government, who, with minimal salaries and high personal expenses, fulfill their responsibilities in the best way to satisfy almighty God and serve the revolution and the people.

Ayatollah al-Ozma Montazeri commented on turning over the work of commerce and distribution to the people, businessmen and committed merchants. He said: I have often spoken this truth, that as much as possible the government must not intervene directly in work that is outside its jurisdiction, such as the

distribution of minor and non-essential merchandise. In affairs such as this, it is the businessman or merchant himself who has both greater incentive to trade in and deliver the merchandise to the one who really needs it, even if it be in the most remote parts of the country, and also the skill and experience necessary for this task. The government, with its direct intervention in such affairs and the creation of long lines, must take on separate personnel with heavy costs. Its objective is definitely to serve the deprived and oppressed classes of people, but in practice it fails, and in practice the deprived classes are dissatisfied, and those who are clever, or who have friends, connections, and more money will usually come out ahead. In my view, if the government turned most domestic and foreign work and trade over to the religious and committed commercial and business classes, and acted in a supervisory capacity itself, the people would be happier and the government would be more successful in attaining its goal, which is to serve the deprived and the oppressed. It says in our traditions, "Leave the people to themselves, and God will provide for some of them by means of others." Therefore, while I appreciate and am thankful for the government's good intentions, and the many services it has provided, I hope that it will reassess in any way possible some of the affairs where the people are sensitive and complain regularly, and design the government offices and organizations to conform as soon as possible to the needs of the revolution and the desires of the people.

9310

CSO: 4640/405

TECHNOLOGICAL DEPENDENCY DELAYING SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 30 Aug 84 pp 5, 23

[Text] The wheels of industrial production are turning rapidly in tens of factories and large production units. Equipment, machinery, and the tools of production are at work non-stop in the creative and productive hands of the workers, technicians, and specialists in the production network, to enable the country's industrial economy to travel down the winding path of self-sufficiency and independence. Tens of factories under the mantle of the ministries of Industry, Heavy Industry and Mines and Metals, and all other involved organizations, despite numerous problems, such as inadequate planning, currency problems, the scarcity of basic materials, economic consequences arising from the imposed war, the unspecified status of some industrial property, labor problems, and so forth, continue in their activities thanks to the creativity and talent of the work force. During Government Week and on Industry and Mines Day, the vista of the country's industrial economy, which is built upon the government's most basic and crucial economic planning, is an extensive one which demands, in both the short and long terms, the rapid implementation of effective planning in order to alleviate the fundamental problems of the country's industrial sector. The experts believe that the country's industrial face will shine upon the world with independence and self-sufficiency when substantial and measured steps have been taken towards cutting industrial and economic dependence in all areas. In the view of the people, the government's current constructive policies in the areas of industry and mining have gradually opened a window on self-sufficiency and independence in the country's industrial sector, and the horizons of expansion and advancement are gradually opening before industry.

Government, Industry, and Mines Day is a time to study the current government's three-year report on industry and mining, and to study and investigate the strengths and weaknesses of this report, which contains efforts and ways to confront difficulties. The experts and those with first-hand knowledge of the issues and problems in the country's industrial and mining sectors believe that despite the many constructive programs which have been launched in the country's industrial sector during the past three years, it is not now practical, due to the problems that exist in this sector, to expand producing factories and rapidly achieve industrial independence in the short term.

The country's industrial sector, one of its most basic economic sectors, is now grappling with numerous problems. Under the former regime the imperialists of the world left the country's industry with a heritage of dependence. According to insiders in the industrial sector, this problem is presently the most basic difficulty facing the country's industrial and producing units. At the present time, dependence with respect to raw materials and dependence with respect to technology are factors that, in the view of the experts, are slowing progress towards industrial and economic independence. In these circumstances, one of the most important watchwords of the Islamic revolution, which has been repeated constantly since the initial formation of Engineer Musavi's government, is the creation of the conditions necessary in the industrial sector to achieve self-sufficiency and abandon dependence. According to insiders, Engineer Mosavi's government's three-year report shows that in recent years positive steps have been taken towards realizing one of the revolution's most basic rallying cries, which is industrial and economic independence, but these steps and accomplishments are not enough. The experts say in order for the government of the revolution to move rapidly and comprehensively to expand industry, the government of the revolution needs to formulate basic and fundamental plans and to understand the problems, needs, and priorities in the expansion of this sector. Under these circumstances, one must note the debilitating effects of the imposed war in the country's economic and industrial sectors; it is the view of the experts that this issue must also be taken into consideration by insiders in industrial planning. The experts believe that the world imperialists and their mercenaries, who imposed an unwanted war upon our government and nation two years after the triumph of the revolution, intended to confront our country's industry, agriculture, and economy with crisis. During the four years of the war, the world imperialists have in no way succeeded in achieving their evil objectives due to the resistance and courage of the combative, Muslim nation of Iran, but industrial experts and insiders believe that the war has had negative effects on the various industrial and economic sectors. Now, three years after the formation of the present government and at the end of a tumultuous era for the country's industry, extensive and comprehensive work and measures must be taken to achieve industrial independence and self-sufficiency.

Ministry of Heavy Industry Report

With the enactment of legislation by the Majlis, the Ministry of Heavy Industry came into existence after the triumph of the revolution on 22 Farvardin 1361 [11 April 1982]. The formation of the Ministry of Heavy Industry was a need of the revolution, because the comprehensive expansion of independent industry must occur through continuous support of heavy industries. Production units under the Ministry of Heavy Industry, with the facilities and resources that they make available for the country's other industrial fields and sectors, are the country's most crucial industrial factories. Every industrial and economic expert stresses that the creation and expansion of heavy industries, the reasonable and appropriate use of supplies and natural resources, and the learning, teaching, and application of industrial knowledge are the paths that every independent and revolutionary country must follow in order to achieve economic and industrial independence.

After three years of Engineer Musavi's government, we will scan the report on the Ministry of Heavy Industry to study the details of this ministry's accomplishments for insights into the problems, needs, and difficulties of the country's heavy industries and the manner of implementing plans in this sector.

Insiders in the Ministry of Heavy Industry say that the production of factories under the mantle of this ministry, including both government and nationalized units, was around 28, 88, and 60 percent more in the year 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] than in the years 1356 [21 March 1977 - 20 March 1978], 1360 [21 March 1981 - 20 March 1982], and 1361 [21 March 1982 - 20 March 1984] respectively. Products produced by factories under the mantle of the Ministry of Heavy Industry in recent years included such things as production tools and machinery, factory equipment, and capital and intermediate goods. An insider in the Ministry of Heavy Industry says concerning the production plan for units under this ministry: The ministry is presently planning to increase the production of general necessary and consumer goods. This ministry has also reduced the production of consumer goods which are less necessary. Among these goods, the production of pickup vans has increased by 91 percent, mini-busses have increased 81 percent, and busses have increased by 19 percent. The production of automobiles has declined by 55 percent compared to the year 1356 [21 March 1977 - 20 March 1978].

Concerning the principal responsibilities of the Ministry of Heavy Industry in achieving the country's industrial goals, he added: The formation of this ministry's policy and planning is done within the framework of the country's economic, technical, and social policies. This ministry also pursues its objectives by collecting information pertaining to industrial designs and systems, and studying the country's industrial needs. It also organizes and carries out teaching and study programs in collaboration with other organizations and domestic and international academic and technical institutions.

Capital Investment in the Heavy Industry Sector

According to statistics presented by the Ministry of Heavy Industry, total capital investment in this sector during the first five-year plan has been estimated at 461.5 billion rials. Of this amount, 171.5 billion rials were invested by the government, the rest by non-governmental investors. According to insiders in the Ministry of Heavy Industry, currency credit needed for this capital investment is estimated at 271.5 billion rials. Insiders in the Ministry of Heavy Industry say that 76.4 billion rials of the invested funds will be used to complete 24 semi-completed plans in the various vehicle and self-propelled device manufacturing and casting groups. An insider in the Ministry of Heavy Industry says concerning the method of investing and implementing plans in this sector: In view of the need of the various sectors for the products of heavy industry and the strategic importance of such products, 66 investment plans have been set for the agricultural, transportation, road construction, construction, mining, machinery, and factory equipment sectors, and studies have been completed on some of these

plans. On the basis of these plans, a total of 135 billion rials has been allocated to the manufacture and production of the primary products in the category of motors and vehicles.

In the area of machinery and equipment manufacture, 36 plans will be implemented with capital investment of 71 billion rials. In the area of metals casting and forming, 11 new plans will be implemented with capital investment of 50 billion rials. With the implementation of these plans 50,000 new jobs will be created, and the value of the heavy industries sector will increase from 112 billion rials in the year 1361 [21 March 1982 - 20 March 1983] to 269 billion rials in the year 1366 [21 March 1987 - 20 March 1988].

The value of the products in the heavy industries sector, which was around 330 billion rials in the year 1361 [21 March 1982 - 20 March 1983], with the implementation of the proposed plans, will reach 792 billion rials in the year 1366 [21 March 1987 - 20 March 1988]. With regard to the primary direction to be taken by heavy industries in the future, he added: Optimum utilization of existing capacities and the creation and expansion of new capacities is the basic direction of the heavy industries sector.

In this connection, increasing the percentage of domestic construction and completion of the primary chains of production of heavy industry goods are planned. Strengthening and expanding those industries which produce the largest amount of primary materials and parts within the country is another goal of the Ministry of Heavy Industry. Other programs in the Ministry of Heavy Industry include basic capital investment for participation in the procurement of defense needs, creating export conditions for heavy industries, expansion of training, and so forth.

Problems in the Country's Industries

As a ministry that oversees an important part of the country's production units and light and heavy industries, the Ministry of Industry faces a number of problems in the fulfillment of its responsibilities. According to insiders in the Ministry of Industry, this ministry's problems, which are chiefly rooted in the country's social and economic problems, place obstacles in the way of the implementation of new plans and programs. Insiders in the Ministry of Industry divide the ministry's major problems into the administrative, organizational, social, technical, and industrial categories. One of the insiders in the Ministry of Industry says concerning its existing problems: The technical and industrial problems of the Ministry of Industry, which actually constitute the major issues of the country's industrial sector, are divided into several important categories. Among these problems are the problem of importing primary materials, the shortage of currency, and the matter of the administrative bureaucracy that prepares foreign orders. Other problems in the industrial sector include the shortage of trained and specialized personnel in the area of industry and problems with obtaining land, and water and electricity for creating and expanding new units. Other problems facing industrial units include the failure to accept basic investment plans and the impossibility of purchasing new machinery due to the currency shortage. At the present time primary materials are imported into

the country with varying standards, and this creates difficulties in the factories. Other problems in industrial units are the shortage of electrical power and its frequent interruption at industrial units and the matter of transportation. With regard to the procurement of primary materials it must be said that the existence of numerous decision-making centers in the area of the procurement of the primary materials needed by factories has created problems. Another problem is the reluctance to accept the responsibility of factory management due to the presence of pressure groups in these units.

According to insiders in the affairs of the country's industry, the problems in the Ministry of Industry and the country's other industrial organizations are not only technical; administrative, organizational, and social problems also make up an important component of the country's industrial problems. The major administrative, organizational, and social problems are described by insiders in the Ministry of Industry as follows: Salaries for experts in the industrial sector are insufficient, and the number technical experts in the Ministry of Industry is not proportional to the number of service workers. Another problem is the existence of new bureaucracies in various organizations and the lack of authority to reward and punish workers. Social problems in the industrial sector, in the view of insiders, include the existence of political pressure groups in the various provinces; this is a problem that creates discord in the administration of factories. Another problem the experts note is the failure to heed the principles of management and the question of how to hire and select new specialist manpower. In the view of the experts, the problems above combine to produce an undesirable situation in the country's industry. The experts therefore say that the problems must be solved by careful study of the existing issues, proposing new plans and programs, and reassessing existing policies.

Cutting Dependence

As was noted previously, long-term plans are required in order to cut industrial dependency. The experts say that cutting dependence depends on the implementation of plans to strengthen and expand basic industry and agriculture, activating mines, specifying the status of property in industrial units, making available such basic resources as land and water and electrical power, training specialist manpower, and procuring sufficient quantities of primary materials. Concerning the principal policies of the Ministry of Industry for cutting dependence and attaining self-sufficiency, a ministry insider says: In view of industry's severe dependence on foreigners, this ministry's primary policy is to lead existing and future industry in the direction of cutting dependence through industrial growth on the basis of domestic petrochemical resources, mines, agriculture, and animal husbandry. In order to achieve industrial self-sufficiency, this ministry has created 60 industrial information and research units (self-sufficiency cells) in 60 factories. The self-sufficiency cells are divided into seven different industrial fields, including cellulose, chemistry and medicine, electricity and electronics, non-metallic minerals, textiles and leathers, foods and sugar, and metals. On this basis, a factory dependent in some field may be chosen as a center for a self-sufficiency cell; this factory will actually pursue the policy of self-sufficiency in a particular field. In the chemical

industries, for example, the Paksan factory is a center for the self-sufficiency cell for the laundry industries. All producing factories in this industry pursue their new discoveries for self-sufficiency at this center.

Concerning the currency share of the country's industries, he added: With regard to currency shares allocated, on the basis of forecasts already made the currency needed by the country in the years 1361 [21 March 1982 - 20 March 1983] and 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] was 6 and 6.5 billion dollars respectively, but for the year 1361 3.2 billion dollars were allocated, and for 1362 4 billion dollars were allocated. These figures were less than 50 percent of the currency needed by the country's industry. For the current year, it is estimated that more than 7.9 billion dollars will be needed; of that amount, several months into the year 2.75 billion dollars have been given to the industrial sector, which is only 40 percent of the currency needed by the country's industry. In view of what has been said, and in spite of the fact that inventories of many of the primary industrial materials have been reduced, and that it has been almost 5 years since the reconstruction of industries and the installation of new machinery functionally stopped, the Ministry of Industry, in the course of precise planning, has been able to allocate currency to more than 5 thousand production units in accordance with existing regulations.

According to insiders in the Ministry of Industry, the level of industrial production in its affiliated units in the year 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] increased 20 percent over the year 1361 [21 March 1982 - 20 March 1983]. At the present time self-sufficiency cells have been formed in more than 351 production companies and 35 commercial and service companies; they have taken effective steps in the construction of machinery, spare parts, and in the market, with the help of workers and specialists.

A Look at the Programs of the Ministry of Mines and Metals

It is the belief of the industrial experts that the role of the country's mines, as the core of its industrial self-sufficiency and independence, must be precisely understood. The country's mines are the primary source of raw materials for the country's industrial units; the appropriate utilization of mines will open the way to self-sufficiency. In view of this, the Ministry of Mines and Metals, based on social revolutionary necessities, began work in the month of Mordad in the year 1360 [23 Jul - 22 Aug 1981]. The Ministry of Mines and Metals Deputy Minister for Planning and Programming said concerning this ministry's current programs: The primary responsibilities of the Ministry of Mines and Metals are to produce ores that can be used by the country's industries and to produce basic metals. The Ministry of Mines and Metals must provide the Ministry of Heavy Industry with metals in standard geometric shapes; the Ministry of Heavy Industry must in turn produce domestically the machinery, equipment, and tools used in mines and foundries. This ministry must provide the Ministry of Light Industry with ores usable by domestic industry. It obtains more than 60 percent of the mined raw materials used by light industry. Geological studies by the Ministry of Mines and Metals show that most of these substances exist in deposits throughout Iran.

Concerning the major activities of the Ministry of Mines and Metals since its inception, he added: This ministry's activities include the start-up and utilization of the Sar Cheshmeh copper complex and the activation of the Mobarakeh steel project of Esfahan and the Ahvaz steel complex. Other activities of the Ministry of Mines and Metals include utilization of the large number two iron furnace at Esfahan, studying and concluding a contract for creating a lead and zinc factory in the Zanzan area, and conducting technical studies on the steel alloy project. Other activities of this ministry include conducting technical and economic studies on the Muteh gold project, the formation of a Supreme Metals Council, the issuance of more than 100 mining permits, the creation of general offices of mines and metals in the country's provinces, as well as conducting technical and economic studies on the production of iron, silicon, and magnesium, a refractory brick factory, and so forth.

According to the Deputy Minister of Planning at the Ministry of Mines and Metals, this ministry's basic policies include establishing mines, producing ores usable in industries in order to achieve industrial self-sufficiency for the country, and defining the role of mines in the country's economy. In this connection, this ministry's experts and officials determine the size of the country's ore deposits by conducting geological studies.

The quantity of raw ores in the agricultural sector, the refractory industries, the silicon industries, the chemical and medicine industries, and the steel industries will be determined through investigation of the country's underground and mining resources. The Ministry of Mines and Metals Deputy Minister of Planning explained this ministry's plans for the future and in the process of implementation. He said: Among the goals being pursued is the replacement of imported ores with existing domestic ores. The ministry's other programs include the utilization of appropriate modern equipment for actual utilization of mines and coordination of programs with the Ministry of Light Industry. Another long term goal of the Ministry of Mines is the growth and expansion of the copper industry in Iran as an important political and economic security for Iran. At the present time a study is underway on the pattern of consumption of ferrous and non-ferrous metals. For example, consideration is being given to using wire and armatures for aluminum in the construction of industrial parts and in the electrical industry instead of in the construction of gates and windows.

He continued: The policies of the Ministry of Mines and Metals include maximum utilization of existing educational resources in the area of industries and mines, establishing continuous relations with the universities, and strengthening educational and research budgets. Activities also began in the mines sector a year ago, and with the completion and refinement of the Mines Law, basic steps may be taken towards making the country's mines as active as possible.

9310

CSO:4640/402

PAKISTAN

ZIA SAID BEING GIVEN FALSE INFORMATION

Karachi AMN in Urdu 17 Jul 84 p 2

[Jumma Khan Column]

[Excerpt] General Zia, in his address to the Federal Council, said that ever since the newspapers have been forbidden to publish political news (owing to there being a ban on political activity) they have been using front-page headlines on accidents, robberies, murders and violence.

In an extemporaneous speech, if a speaker says something that is factually untrue, the mistake can be overlooked.

The present Federal Council is a nominated institution. It is only an advisory body, but the president and the government hold it in great respect. Even in the current session of the Federal Council, the president has said that it is his heart as well as his brain. It is, he said, his and his government's advisor. Every member of this house, he said, serves as the eyes and ears for him and his government and they do not want to make themselves deaf and blind prematurely.

These words show how important this council is in the estimate of General Zia. Anything that he says in this house (whether the speech is prepared or extemporaneous does not matter) is sure to get a lot of attention. What the president said in this speech shows that the high officials have kept him completely ignorant of facts. They did not even consider the fact that this speech would be published in the newspapers, broadcast on the radio and televised, therefore it should be based on facts. Everyone, including Gen Zia, knows that until a short while ago newspapers used to publish political news in spite of the fact that politics and political activities were banned. The regime, instead of enforcing the martial law regulations strictly, looked the other way and simply ignored the publishing of political news in the newspapers. Then it suddenly reminded the newspapers of the existing martial law regulations and forbade them to publish anything connected with politics. All the newspapers obeyed this order, and no statement of a politician, no interview or anything connected with political activities in the country has since been published in the newspapers.

An oral order was enough to stop the publication of political news in the papers. Then another order came requiring the newspapers to give the news about crimes at the most a two column headline on an inside page. If a crime, the order said, was committed after the inside pages of the newspaper had been sent to the press, such news could be published on the last page with a two-column headline. In no circumstances was the news of a crime to be published on the front page. But, the order said, if a crime had been exposed or a criminal punished, then the news could be published on the front page. All of the prominent newspapers have been obeying these directions over the past several weeks. No important newspaper has been disobedient. Hence, it is not true to say that the newspapers are publishing news about crime on their front pages.

The person who told this lie to General Zia is neither his friend nor a friend of the newspapers. He has, with his falsehood, tried to deceive General Zia. He has made the president say something that will give the public the impression that General Zia does not know facts or that high officials, according to their habit, are trying to hoodwink the president by telling him that all is well.

12476

CSO: 4656/185

PAKISTAN

ELECTIONS VIEWED AS UNIFYING FORCE FOR MRD

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 4 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by Khalid Kashmiri: "Announcement of Elections Schedule Will Bring Unity in MRD"]

[Text] It is no secret that most parties in the MRD disagree about participation in the general elections. Some of the parties do not want to participate in elections held on a nonparty basis. Other parties, however, are ready for nonparty elections. They hope to support their candidates without any party label. Some member parties of this alliance are waiting for the elections schedule to be announced. These parties will make a decision after this schedule is published. In other words, these parties are uncertain about their future. The following parties are against taking part in elections that do not follow the 1973 constitution: Pakistani Democratic Party, Jamiatul Ulema-e Islam (JUI; Maulana Fazalul Rahman Group) and Pakistan Muslim League (Khwaja Khairudin group). Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, founding leader of the MRD, says openly that elections have a special atmosphere that is noticeable in all democratic countries. Candidates have the right to hold meetings and contact voters. They need enough time for that. People need to express their opinions. He added that as long as there is no such atmosphere, the elections are a joke. Leaders of the defunct JUI and Muslim League share this viewpoint. The defunct Tahrik-e Istiqlal still has not decided whether to participate in the elections or not. At a recent convention of this party, there were two prominent factions; the minority group is against participating in elections held on a nonparty basis whereas the majority faction feels that such a step will be detrimental to the political future of the party. Thus, the representatives of Tahrik-e Istiqlal in the MRD cannot tell what stand their party has on the up-coming elections since even the high command of this party has not decided on a stand.

The second- and third-ranking leaders of this party are in favor of boycotting elections held on a nonparty basis but they were not able to convince the top leadership of the party. Obviously, these leaders are waiting to see which way the wind blows.

A ruling party of the recent past is one of the important member party of the MRD. This party, which has also lost its political identity after joining

the MRD alliance, is looking for a new life and has not yet decided on its stand regarding elections. Some of its members have been declaring emphatically that the PPP [Pakistani People's Party] will take part in elections whether they are held on a party or nonparty basis. This statement seems to be true, since leaders and workers of the defunct PPP have started to meet people in various localities, reconnoiter old party members and prepare lists of possible candidates. These lists assure that members of the party will represent it from various election districts. The party will help them in their efforts, whether it takes part in the elections or not. The local leadership of this party believes that people have forgotten them and their few good deeds. They feel that if the members of PPP do not win seats then they will lose their hold in those areas for good. Like the MRD, the PPP high command refuses to admit that but the defunct PPP will make sure that its members take part in elections, in defiance of MRD orders. Prominent leaders of this party may not abide by this decision.

The leaders of MRD are aware of these disagreements. This is why this question was not raised at their recent meeting. It is believed that they had decided to table discussion on it if the issue was raised.

Observers of MRD believe that the present lack of unity in MRD ranks will end soon. They believe that the announcement of a schedule for the elections by the government will prompt this unity. In other words, it does not matter what kind of elections are held, the announcement of an election plan will help MRD make up its mind about its participation in the elections.

7997

CSO: 4656/191

PROSPECTS FOR ELECTIONS, CONSTITUTION SAID DOUBTFUL

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 11 Aug 84 Magazine p 1

[Article by Abdul Latif Sethi: "No Constitution, No Elections]

[Excerpt] Every speech the president makes seems to cancel the one he made before. He has been making contradictory statements for the past 7 years, and now the intelligentsia of the country have stopped commenting on what he says. The recent 135-minute talk he gave in the Shoora is another such speech. It contradicts everything he has said in the past. Now people should forget all that he has said previously and try to understand what he says now and to whom he says it (experience tells us that even this may not be his final word, but this is what he says): (1) There will be elections, but not the sort the nation expects or desires and (2) the elections will be held under a revised form of the 1973 constitution. He will not restore the 1973 constitution but will enact it in a changed form, either through an ordinance or by getting it passed by the Shoora. According to the president, the 1973 constitution is unIslamic, whereas its changed form as enacted by him will be Islamic. If the people do not accept it, the president will ignore them and go on ruling the country as he pleases.

Democracy becomes ridiculous if it is not democratic in the true sense. False democracy cannot succeed even if its organizers mean well. The military regime cannot give us true democracy. It goes against the grain of a military man to allow a government based on the free choice of the people. That is why Iskandar Mirza wanted "controlled democracy" and Ayub Khan thought B. D. [Basic Democracies] System to be true democracy. He wasted the nation's money on a new constitution and then destroyed it with his own hands before he left.

Now history is going to repeat itself and we are going to have another spell of dictatorship. Only it will be given a high-sounding name. It has been assumed that the people are a mass of uneducated people whose desires and views should be ignored. The president claims that the party system is unIslamic and then calls the Shoora his "party!" A very strange contradiction indeed!

It is deplorable that our nation can have no constitution, no election and no restoration of democracy. When the denial of democracy is called true Islam, the worst form of autocracy will result in the country. The people should face facts--there will be no elections, and if there are, they will not be the right sort.

12476

CSO: 4656/193

COMMENTARY ON ELECTIONS, PRAYER ADMINISTRATION, OTHER TOPICS

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Sep 84 p 7

[Article by 'Zeno': "High Road to Elections"]

[Text]

SOME incorrigible cynics here continue to be sceptical about the holding of general elections at the end of this year, or even by March next year. At any mention of the subject they look down on you compassionately as if they were sorry for the state of your mental health.

Although it might be argued that there is some reason for such unyielding pessimism because of the ambiguous political situation of the past many years. I nevertheless think that to adopt such a hardened attitude of mistrustfulness is stretching things too far. The activation of the Election Commission at its various levels, and all the preparatory measures being adopted by it, should be enough to dispel any doubts about the intentions of the administration.

One of the important indications in this regard is the recent behaviour of some of the defunct political parties and elements which are known for their intimate relations with the Martial Law regime. Both the Muslim League (Pagara Group) and the Jamaat-i-Islami have, over the last fortnight, held important meetings of their central leaderships, and declared their firm intention to take part in the elections, whether held on party basis or non-party basis. It is true that both these defunct political parties have reiterated their stand that election without the participation of political parties would be a farce, and might even

lead to disastrous results, even so they have expressed their readiness to take part in them in any case.

Political pundits in the city have commented on this phenomenon of political parties volunteering participation in non-party elections with more than a touch of amusement. The situation is not merely ambiguous but also rather comic. According to Press reports the Majlis Khidmat-i-Islami (the name under which the defunct Jamaat-i-Islami has carried out its activities for the last few years has decided to finalise the lists of its candidate for the provincial and Central assembly seats. Similarly, though Pir Pagara has declared that the list of his party's candidates is always ready, the proposal for the formation of a committee for the selection of candidates has been mooted. Pir Sahib claims that large numbers of members of his party were elected in the last local bodies elections, (also presumably held on non-party basis), and he has announced that most of them would be candidates of his party in the forthcoming general elections.

Other parties, like those headed by Maulana Kausar Niazi and Mr. Hanif Ramay are also busy drawing up the lists of their candidates. Some constituent parties of the MRD are likewise reported to be seriously considering the issue.

The basic comic factor in the game is going to be the fact that everybody taking part in it would know from the start that the non-party character of the election is no more than a facade and all the

candidates would be members of one party or the other. And yet everybody, not excluding the government, or for that matter the public would pretend not to notice. It will be a grand masquerade in which every participant will be provided a complete list, before the show starts, of all the masks and their true identities. Actually most of the masks have been so long in use that they have been worn threadbare and serve very well to reveal the faces they are meant to conceal. In any case it is a rather close and intimate circle and everybody knows everybody else, whether they be masked or unmasked.

There have been very few elections — provincial or Central — since Pakistan was formed. Perhaps there had been more elections in the three decades before 1947 than in those after 1947. But before or after, in all the elections held in these areas forming Pakistan in the last 60 or 70 years the political process, according to the real rules of the game, has thrown up a limited number of personages who have formed a charmed circle of the ruling elite. With a few drop-outs now and then and a few additions here and there the circle remains in tact. From the Viceroy's Council at the beginning of the century through the various changes in the electoral process and the widening of the franchise, there has been little change (from the point of view of families involved) in the participants of the masquerades, or in the masks that they wear.

When the President announced his intention of forming the present Majlis-i-Shoora he proudly declared his commitment to select persons belonging to the finest pedigree available. He was only following a practice which has had a

long and hallowed tradition. On the present occasion also he has expressed his opinion that he would prefer the election of only "the Islam-Pasand and true Pakistani" elements. That is why he intends to frame "Islamic principles of elections" so that "positive results" can be obtained.

In his recent address to the Councillors in Hyderabad, he exhorted them to guide the people correctly for successful completion of the electoral process. He criticised certain elements "who have alleged that the coming elections would be merely nominations." He countered this criticism by saying that "even in the elections on party basis the process is based on nominations, because various parties issue tickets to their members for the election." This should be enough to shut up all criticism on this score. Whether it is various parties which nominate their candidates, or only a single authority does so, it is certainly all one, considering the eternal charmed circle.

One of the issues being commented upon widely these days is the appointment of "Nazimeen-i-Salaat." It is being said that these "organisers of prayers" who would have to prepare and submit reports on the religious conduct of citizens in their areas, would also be entrusted with the duty of collectively nominating candidates for the elections. Thus in the case of candidates for the provincial assemblies groups of 30 "Nazimeen-i-Salaat", and in the case of National Assembly, groups of 50 "Nazimeen" would nominate a candidate.

Some political elements also have expressed the fear that the "Nazimeen-i-Salaat" might be involved by the bureaucracy in local politics. It seems that the President has declared that these worthies

will not be allowed to get involved in politics, and that their duties will not go beyond the simple exhortation to citizens to say their prayers. In spite of this clarification, the Jamaat-i-Islami organ, "Jasarat," editorially expressed its apprehension that the "Salaat Committees" to be organised by the "Nazimeen" might be used by the bureaucracy "for processing witnesses for the support of particular candidates and for opposing others.... If this happened, then the respect due to the Salaat Committees would not be forthcoming, and the people would not cooperate with them because of the impression that they are merely a political necessity of the Government, and mere tools of the administration."

Coming from a widely acclaimed Islam-Pasand Party's organ, this is a harsh criticism of a step of the Government which has been described by the Ulema as the acme of its programme of Islamisation. It is on such occasions that the famous quotations from Shakespeare — "Thou too, Brutus" — comes to mind. That is why it is said that democracy remains a dangerous game even if every candidate belongs to the same political persuasion. It is not without reason then that Mir Ali Ahmed Talpur (who, by the way, has been rumoured to be the prospective Prime Minister in the National Assembly when it comes into being) has on more than one occasion expressed his displeasure with democracy as a political system. In one of his recent statements he has prophesied "certain destruction of the country if democratic elections (of the Western type) are held here." That is why he has impressed upon the President, again and again, to hold the elections to the seat of President before the general elections.

PAKISTAN

ILLEGAL PRACTICES BY REFUGEES CRITICIZED

Karachi AMN in Urdu 17 Jul 84 p 2

[Editorial: "Afghan Refugees in Karachi"]

[Text] Some time ago, government circles advised that Afghan refugees would not be allowed to enter Karachi, but now it is common knowledge that these refugees are not only entering Karachi in large numbers but are doing business there and buying real estate. The refugees are forbidden by law to do business or buy property in Pakistan, because by doing so they lose their status as refugees and forfeit all the facilities they receive as refugees.

There are several points to be considered here. The Afghan refugees were given temporary refuge in this country in a humanitarian spirit and the spirit of Islamic brotherhood. It is true that the Western countries are giving large sums of money to Pakistan to be spent on these refugees, but the bulk of their burden has to be borne by the Pakistani Government. In our present circumstances, Pakistan is unable to bear this burden. The refugee camps for these people were established mostly in the Frontier Province and Baluchistan. These provinces are considerably backward economically. But their inhabitants wonder at the wealth of these "homeless refugees" who have more money to buy property in Pakistan than the citizens of the country have. Because of this, the inhabitants of these provinces are against Afghan refugees staying with them and getting any facilities there. They are especially against the refugees who break the rules prohibiting them from doing business and buying property in Pakistan. In Frontier and Baluchistan these refugees are running transport services and have bought large business concerns. Some refugees have acquired big government contracts.

It is a fact that Afghan refugees, whose number now exceeds 3,000,000 are here without the will or the consent of the Pakistani people, but why are they allowed to break restrictions placed on them as refugees? We do not ask where these refugees get the money to buy property in Pakistan, but we know that ever since they came there has been a very great increase in the smuggling and trading of arms and ammunition in this country.

A market run by people from the Frontier and selling smuggled foreign goods existed in Karachi on the Super Highway under the name of Bara Bazar. Richer

people of Karachi patronized it. This place has gradually turned into a market for deadly narcotics like heroin and marijuana. It is reported that in some mysterious way the ownership of this market changed, and now all the houses and shops of the Bara Bazar are owned by Afghan refugees. Recently a police raid, led by the D.I.G. [Deputy Inspector General] of Karachi Police uncovered large quantities of narcotics and banned goods there, and proved that this area was a great center for the traffic of drugs. Now there is a rumor that this market is to be demolished. But when will it happen? How much harm the anti-social narcotic traffickers will have done the country before this market is demolished?

The question is: if the Afghan refugees are disobeying the restrictions on doing business and buying property in Pakistan, why cannot the government make a list of their names and announce that they have forfeited their position as refugees? They should then be required to get themselves registered as foreigners and stay here under the laws governing foreigners. If they do anything harmful to the country, they should be told to leave Pakistan.

There is need for investigation into the fact that despite the government's declaration that Afghan refugees will not be allowed to enter Karachi, they have come here in such large numbers, and their coming continues. Another question: formerly the government often published facts and figures about Afghan refugees, but now for some time no facts and figures have been announced. Their coming has not stopped. On the other hand a large number of Afghan refugees living in Iran have migrated to Pakistan. Why has the publication of facts and figures about Afghan refugees been stopped?

12476

CSO: 4656/185

LITERACY: FACTS, FIGURES ANALYZED

Karachi DAWN in English 31 Aug 84 Magazine p I

[Article by Azra Ikram: "Anatomy of Illiteracy in Pakistan"]

[Text]

Pakistan barely has a national literacy rate of 21%, against the average of 36% for low-income countries. Again, in our country, more than 50% of the children of five to nine years age-group never get enrolled in schools, compared to 73% average enrolment of the same age-group in low-income countries and 92% in the middle-income group of countries. In our country only 17% of the in-school children move on to the secondary stage, as compared to 25% average of the low-income countries. These critical indices assign to our nation a lowly status in the comity of nations and give a chilling sensation to those who hold the well-being and future of the country dearest to their hearts.

Having a Nobel laureate in our midst is like having a billionaire among millions of semi-starved beggars in rags. Such a sharp contrast strongly emphasises the unrealized promise and potential of the Pakistani nation.

After 37 years of our independence we have managed to achieve in literacy what Hindus had already accomplished in 1947, but our educational expansion has been most callously restricted to the needs of middle class population living in the cities.

We have all along been trying to develop the already developed sections of our society at the expense of the voiceless and disadvantaged millions living in the villages.

Our 25% population living in urban areas has a much higher birth-rate than rural areas, and this 25% consumes the bulk of the educational resources the nation allocates to this Cinderella of the national investment sectors.

Birth rate

A combination of circumstances, including high birth-rate of 3%, less than 2% of G.N.P. annually spent on education, concentration of practically all available educational resources in higher education in big cities, disparities between provinces, rural and urban masses, and men and women, haphazard and ad-hoc planning, and quite a few other well-known reasons, have created conditions under which 1.5 million illiterates continue to be added annually to the existing aggregate of 65 million illiterates in the country.

Some experts estimate that the actual literacy rate in the country is drifting downwards. We cannot remain silent spectators to this con-

tinuing erosion of our human resource. We have to climb up the ladder step-by-step like Sri Lanka, or make determined effort to transform the situation in one leap, like the Soviet Union, China or Burma.

Instead of paying lip-service to the cause of literacy through our media, we have to wake up our lethargic and indifferent educated community and prepare them to share their enlightenment and basic education with their unfortunate countrymen living in the pitch darkness of ignorance.

Swaddling clothes

While in the rest of the world, adult and non-formal education has come of age, in our country it is still in its swaddling clothes. The Adult Education Directorates exist in name only; the work of non-government welfare organisations is peripheral; the infrastructure for a continuing programme of non-formal education is non-existent; the role of the media in building up a literacy movement is cosmetic; the number of dedicated workers in the field is woefully small; the apathy of the teaching community is inexplicable and the motivation of the illiterate adults to participate in educational programmes is disappointingly poor.

National conferences, observance of relevant days, Press statements, TV news stories and photographs have their value only if these showings have an impact on the masses and lead to a popular and

fruitful movement at the national level.

We must face the truth that literacy campaigns and adult educational activities have political connotations, and are vitally linked with sharp awareness of the adults of their felt needs, social conditions, economic relationships and cultural heritage.

Great teachers like Paulo Friere in Latin America and others in the backward States of Asia and Africa have been exiled from their countries on trumped-up charges of politicising and indoctrinating the simple and ignorant masses.

If we wish to lay firm foundations of an indigenous system of adult literacy, we have to involve every literate person in the country in designing and implementing a need-oriented programme of literacy for the illiterate masses.

We have first to train field workers in thousands to conduct effective literacy programmes with dedication and patience. We have to produce attractive literacy materials of all kinds in the mother tongues of the adults to be educated and these materials must be available in plenty.

Follow-up programmes and small libraries for neo-literates must be planned well in advance. This is the preparation needed to launch an all-embracing literacy campaign which will make it impossible for educated persons to stay out of it and draw the illiterate population into its fold.

We have to mobilise all possible resources for the countrywide establishment of such a system. The much-needed breakthrough in this field can only be produced by social workers, religious leaders, students, philanthropists, teachers and writers working hand in hand. Mass education implies mass contact, coming down to the functionaries to the level of the humble common man and powerful communication between the alienated adults and the dedicated field workers.

Adult Education Councils

In my humble opinion, one way of facilitating mass contact is to set up Provincial Adult Education Councils under a Federal Adult Education Council which should include at each level, eminent teachers, industrialists, social workers, newsmen and broadcasters, prominent students, representatives of diffe-

rent voluntary organisations and religious personalities. Whatever system we evolve will strike roots only if we decentralise its control and leave it entirely in the hands of representatives of the people.

Our national system of adult and non-formal education has to be built on four pillars to — (1) Motivational effort, (2) Resource base, (3) Organisational structure and (4) Government support.

First and foremost step is the launching of a motivational campaign to persuade and induce the masses to participate in a broad spectrum of educational programmes. The appeals and propaganda must highlight the fact that in the present age of pace and computers, Pakistan cannot win the race for science and technology, industrialisation and self-reliance, without a hundred percent literacy, which is the distinction of every advanced nation of the world.

Newspaper, radio, TV, posters, signboards and daily appeals in the mosque should spotlight the equalisation and transformation which education would inevitably produce in the economic, cultural and social life of our people.

Our target age-group may be 15 to 40 years. A viable, popular and productive system of non-formal education can only be created through concrete efforts and material resources.

A National Literacy Centre supported by Literacy Centres in all the four provinces will produce reading materials, statistical reports mappings of pockets of illiterate populations in cities and rural areas, films slides, plays, books for special libraries for neo-literates, packages of programmes for different groups of adults, teaching aids for field workers, programmes for training literacy manpower at different levels, besides an effective monitoring and supervisory system.

Budgetary needs of the system will be met out of the substantial grants from the Federal Government, a rational tax levied by the Provincial Government at appropriate levels, and donations by philanthropists.

At least 10 per cent of the educational budget of the country must be allotted to adult education and mass literacy, and the Government machinery for the promotion of literacy should not spend more than 10% of this allocation on its administrative and bureaucratic infrastructure.

Ninety per cent of the adult educational budget should go to literacy centres in all provinces, literacy materials and literacy field workers. An organisational structure from the Federal to the Provincial, district and tehsil levels has to be established in consultation with non-governmental voluntary organisations, teachers' associations, representatives of the media, and elected members of the local bodies and provincial and national assemblies. The Federal and Provincial Education Councils may be assigned a pivotal role in the vitalisation and stabilisation of a national system of adult and non-formal education.

The role of the Government in adult literacy is vital. The Government will act as a policy-making agency, a major source of funds, producer of literacy materials on an extensive scale, coordinator and evaluator of ongoing literacy programmes in the country and as a legislator of appropriate measure for the promotion of adult literacy in the country.

Making primary education compulsory for children in the age-group of 5-10 years, recruitments of only literate persons in Government departments, provision of literacy centres in factories, government offices, jails, etc., incentives for those wholeheartedly promoting the national literacy drive creation of students' literacy corps and other important aspects of the efforts contributing to the eradication of illiteracy in the country will be provided legal cover by the government, from time to time.

The Government will act as a partner and a consultant in this national enterprise but may, at no stage, manage, remote-control or administer its cadres and institutions.

It has to be borne in mind that adult education cannot develop as a government department; it has to be a flexible and democratic sociocultural movement within a somewhat loose and liberal framework, aimed at bringing about a radical change in the quality of life of the people.

Economic factor

The four above-mentioned key components must receive the attention of all agencies working for the creation of an effective and

self-propelling system for the promotion of adult and non-formal Education in the country.

Let us face the stark fact that we have an illiterate population of nearly 65 million. With the best of intentions and mens, suppose we decide to educate annually 5% of the illiterate population (which incidentally means adding 3.25 million person to the country's literate population every year).

This magic figure of 3.25 million equals the total number of school-going children who annually complete primary education in the 59 thousand primary schools of our country. But, can we educate 5% of illiterate adults or 3.2 million people without at least 59 thousand well-provided literacy centres spread over the length and breadth of the country?

This aspect of the problem reveals the Herculean effort required and the scale and range of the resources to be mobilised. I have hinted at this target of 5%, because experts at the international level and Unesco's recommendations support the view that only by eliminating at least 5% illiteracy annually and reaching the stage of 100% enrolment of the children of the school-going age, can we hope to achieve 100% literacy in a reasonable span of time.

There are Asian countries which are now approaching the 100% literacy mark by adopting this strategy. But where do we stand with all our rhetoric and plans? By most liberal estimates we hardly touch the figure of 15 thousand in a year — by a miscellany of sporadic and uncoordinated efforts we manage to educate only 0.02% of our illiterates. This is not even a proverbial drop in the vast ocean of illiteracy.

Unless there is a quantum jump from the present stage of inaction to a more dynamic state of purposeful activity, through a massive injection of funds in a vigorous nationwide motivational campaign and extensive production of literacy materials, there will be no progress.

We have to create conditions by which a chain reaction can be set in and sustained, so that one newly educated person inspires and shows the way to many others and the number of literates in the country goes on multiplying continuously.

A take-off stage will only be reached after we have attained, at

least, 40% literacy and then, if the media play the supporting role in galvanising the masses, we will reach a stage at which resistance to self-improvement crumbles, attitudes and habits change, and a spirit of confidence and cooperation accelerates the ongoing process.

Meanwhile, in the present conditions, talk of 50% literacy in five years and a jump from 25% to 50% literacy rate can at best be treated as a challenging target. Living even with a 3% birth rate and eliminating 50% drop-out rate of primary schools are problems which deflate our soaring ambitions.

Scientific approach

The need for deeper understanding of the problem of illiteracy cannot be overemphasised. Some of our Urdu dailies comment on the problem naively, without comprehending its complexity and depth.

As most of our literate countrymen are allergic to reading books and derive most of their information from daily newspapers or Western magazines like *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Reader's Digest* and *The Economist*, they tend to imbibe misleading and convoluted notions about most national and international problems.

Most of the Urdu dailies convey the impression that the "each one teach one" approach combined with a couple of adult literacy centres run by welfare organisations could produce 100% literacy in the next five years. This is like saying that each one of us, by doing alms to the poor and giving money to the beggars on the road, can eliminate poverty in the country.

Such a simplistic approach is most harmful, as it breeds complacency and prolongs the status quo.

Some of our workers in the field put forward fantastic claims and remain unchallenged. There is no doubt that TV and radio programmes are an integral part of an adult literacy drive but these two media by themselves cannot disseminate basic literacy.

For this we need adult literacy centres equipped with television and radio facilities, supervisor who can teach and interpret the programmes to learners and provide the necessary feedback to the programmers.

A nation which cannot afford ordinary classrooms for adult literacy work can not be burdened with the luxury of a chain of well-manned TV and radio sets, and even computers VCRs and all the rest of the modern gadgetery which some people have planned to introduce. One of our expert has in his report published in one of the international educational journals created the impression that lakhs of illiterates in Gujranwala were made literate through the magic telecasting of a TV programme in the 70s.

With my field experience, I find such exaggerated and unverified claims simply laughable. We have to be sober, scientific and realistic in our assessments.

Now, this "each one teach one" is a medieval pre-independence concept divorced from the realities of our humdrum lives. It is at best a pious wish. Had this been a workable idea we should have attained 100% literacy long before. It is a barren lip-service to a great cause. Such appeals are generally ignored and people acquire an immunity against them.

We have to institutionalise the education of adults and can give this edict a special place in the programmes of organisations like the boy scouts and girl guides. "Each one teach one" is really "each one cheat one" and no literacy programme geared to action can derive strength from this idea.

Apathy

I have endeavoured to encompass too many crucial issue in this brief outline of the deepening crisis of illiteracy in Pakistan. I would now wish to address an appeal to my colleagues in the teaching profession. It is pity that educational community from top to bottom is most indifferently and insensitively disposed towards the aggravating conditions of illiteracy in the country. Even in countries like India, universities are playing a commendable role in adult literacy, but our university men seem to have hitched their wagons to the stars.

The teaching community at all levels must think beyond its material needs of salaries, privileges and personal comforts, and understand that we are a part of the nation and cannot remain confined to our ivory towers and shells.

Eradication of illiteracy is a formidable challenge for the conscience and professional sensibilities of the teaching community. The Government could offer attractive honoraria and facilities to teachers intending to work in three-month literacy programmes launched in rural areas during vacations.

Such a plan should be applicable to all categories of teachers in the universities, colleges and schools. The proposal has to be examined in depth and implemented in right earnest.

Some of our retired teachers are the reservoirs of educational experience, vision and humanitarian spirit, and can radiate sweetness and light instead of languishing in idleness. This precious asset must be tapped.

More than any other section of the society, the teaching community is answerable to the nation for the darkening clouds of illiteracy threatening to paralyse all our efforts for economic development and progress in the ever-expanding field of science and technology. They should lose no more time in taking the lead in this crucial educational sphere.

CSO: 4600/755

IRANIAN REFUGEES GO ON HUNGER STRIKE

Karachi DAWN in English 4 Sep 84 p 2

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Sept 3: The Iranian refugees, about 25 in number, who have been squatting at the UNDP Office in Islamabad for about a week, have gone on hunger strike from Monday against alleged indifference of the UNHCR officials to their problems and grievances, according to a Press release of the Iranians who describe themselves as "some of the Iranian militant refugees."

The Iranian protesters have also issued a lengthy statement, purported to refute the allegations made against protesting Iranians at Karachi and Islamabad, by the UNHCR officials. The Iranians have maintained that they were compelled to stage sit-in at the UNHCR offices in Karachi and Islamabad to highlight their plight, after their

pleas were ignored and no remedy had been made available to them by the UNHCR during the last two years.

The number of Iranians registered as refugees with the UNHCR in Pakistan is said to be over 1,000, most of them in Karachi. The Iranians are, however, being treated differently from the Afghan refugees in Pakistan, and while the allowances admissible to the Iranians are said to be at a higher scale, they are to be allowed here for a limited period and eventually sent out to be resettled in a third country.

The Iranian refugees in Karachi have been staging protests for several months while the Iranians in Islamabad began the sit-in on Thursday last.

An UNHCR official said here on Monday that the UNHCR officials were willing to start negotiations immediately with the aggrieved Iranians as soon as they stopped staging their demonstrations at the UNHCR Office in Karachi and the UN offices in Islamabad. He assured that the UNHCR was entirely sympathetic in its approach to the refugees regardless of their origin and he, however, pointed out that its role was essentially limited. It was pointed out that the UNHCR had to operate within its resources and scope, and the transferring of refugees to a third country for resettlement could only be undertaken when the recipient governments indicated how many and which of the refugees were acceptable to them.

CSO: 4600/755

40M IDENTITY CARDS SAID ISSUED

Karachi DAWN in English 4 Sep 84 p 3

[Text]

† ISLAMABAD, Sept 3: The Government has expressed satisfaction over the performance of Directorate-General of Registration in issuing National Identity Cards to 86.7 per cent people throughout the country including Northern Areas and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

An official of the Directorate-General of Registration told APP here Monday that out of total registered population of 4,64,80,000 of 18-year and above on the basis of 1984 estimates, 4,03,11,000 people have been issued National Identity Cards in the country including Northern Areas and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Explaining the provincial performance in issuing National Identity Cards, the official said that 89 per cent people in the Punjab, 88.6 per cent in Sind, 83.9 per cent in the NWFP, excluding FATA, and 62.1 per cent in Baluchistan have been issued National Identity Cards so far.

In Azad Jammu and Kashmir 87.6 per cent people while in the Northern Areas 78.0 per cent people were issued Identity Cards, the official said adding that the estimated population of 18 years of age or above in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Northern Areas on the basis of 1984 estimates was 11,04,000 and 3,14,000 respec-

tively, while Identity Cards were issued to 9,67,000 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and 2,45,000 in Northern Areas.

Replying to a question, the official said, the estimated population of 18 years of age or above on the basis 1984 estimates in the Punjab was 2,62,72,000, in Sind 1,05,16,000, in the NWFP excluding FATA 58,15,000 and in Baluchistan 24,59,000.

The Identity Cards issued to the population of 18 years of age or above in the four provinces — the Punjab, Sind, NWFP (excluding FATA) and Baluchistan — is 2,33,80,000, 93,13,000, 48,78,000 and 15,28,000 respectively, the official added.

The official said at present five Regional Registration Offices, 79 District Registration Offices and 235 Sub-Divisional Registration Offices are engaged in promoting the work of issuing National Identity Cards to the people throughout the country.

Two Data Processing Centres at Karachi and Islamabad were set up in 1976 for computerisation of personal characteristics of registered persons and 45 per cent work of preparation of data processing of registration and Identity Cards had been completed through these centres, he said.

—APP.

CSO: 4600/755

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ULEMA FORMULATED

Karachi DAWN in English 4 Sep 84 p 3

[Text]

LAHORE, Sept 3: The 8-member sub-committee of the Wahdat-i-Ummah Committee, at a meeting here on Monday formulated an 11-point code of conduct for the ulema, imams, khatibs and zakireen, with a view to eliminating sectarian hatred and promoting an atmosphere of amity, homogeneity and harmony among the believers of different schools of thought of the nation.

Founded on the 22-points unanimously approved and put forward by the leading ulema of all the schools of thought in 1951 and 1953, the code of conduct would be presented at the next meeting of the Wahdat-i-Ummah Committee to be held here towards the end of the current month, for final

approval.

The sub-committee has representation from all the schools of Islamic thought. Monday's meeting was attended by Maulana Mohammad Malik Kandhalvi, Mufti Mohammad Husain Naeemi, Maulana Ali Ghazanfar Kararvi, Maulana Hafiz Abdur Rashid and Mian Fazl-i-Haq.

The Chief Administrator Auqaf, Punjab, Mr Aftab Ahmed Khan, presided over the sub-committee meeting.

The proposed code of conduct makes it obligatory for the ulema, khatibs and zakireen of all the schools of thought to confine their viewpoint and arguments in support of the same, to their 'dars' or writings and refrain from discussing them in public. It prohibits them from expressing either by word or speech or through writing anything that could provoke any sect or lead towards sectarian hatred. Instead, they have been advised to adopt a sympathetic attitude and a rational approach in their speeches and writings for the education and guidance of the masses.

The code of conduct enjoins upon the ulema and khatibs to devote the Friday khutbas, 'dars' gatherings and other religious meetings to Huqooq Allah, Huqooqul ibad, and Islamic code of morality, so as to achieve the noble objectives of social reformation.

APP.

CSO: 4600/755

LIFE, WAYS OF IMMIGRANTS FROM BANGLADESH DESCRIBED

Karachi DAWN in English 7 Sep 84 Magazine p I

[Article by Azmat Ansari]

[Text]

They have some features in common with the Burmese exodists: they are here without passports, they crossed over into the country on the sly in the dead hours of the night, and they all would say on their first encounter with a stranger that they have been born into the country: Pakistan is their ancestral home.

Since there are reports of national identity cards being sold for easily affordable amounts, one really needs the skill of Sherlock Holmes to find out who has crossed over into Pakistan illegally and who has not.

Once these Bengali exodists are convinced of a stranger's bonafides and are off their guards, they may tell you they have come to Pakistan because they were persecuted in Bangladesh. One really does not know whether their talk of persecution is a ploy to gain the sympathies of the listener.

I became conscious of their presence when a manservant I had employed turned out to be a Bengali. He had no passport and implored us to get him an identity card. Within weeks there were several of them in the flats.

I had seen Bangladeshis manning counters in an ice-cream shop, in a grocery store and in many other shops in the last few weeks.

The ones that I interviewed told me that they have come to Pakistan because no jobs were available in Bangladesh. They did not like working in India as the wages offered there to a domestic servant are ridiculously low. Most of them were remitting regular sums of money to their brothers and sisters in Bangladesh to support their schooling through the *laundi* system.

Like the Burmese immigrants, the Bengalis gave pretty reliable accounts of how they came to Pakistan. One of their elected leaders said he had come here clandestinely: '*Choori say aaya hoon*'.

This middle-aged man who now owns a few carpet-weaving looms in Korangi and earns about Rs. 100 a day said he had decided to come to Pakistan, when workers of a political party, more than a decade ago, had let loose a reign of terror upon his village.

After the villagers were dispossessed, they decided to start a trek to Pakistan. They set out in the form of small batches of five, six, and ten.

When this man started his journey along with his wife and nine children, he had only one thousand Bengali takas on him. He had made a loose plan of what he would do when he set his foot out of his village. He prepared a map with the help of a friend that showed the points that he ought to touch on his way to Pakistan. One of the points was village Benapole inside the Indian border. He reached a thickly forested region of Bangladesh where he offered a sympathetic

guarder Rs. 100 who ferried him across the border.

The man and his children boarded the train without buying tickets. "Didn't the T.T. check you?" I cried. "When he did, we said we are awfully poor people, we can't afford to buy tickets."

In Calcutta, he exchanged the currency he had on him for three hundred Indian rupees, and with this money he was able to buy only two tickets for Amritsar.

"After sunset you have to walk for one full night before you reach Pakistan," the man said. "Weren't you challenged by a guard?" I asked him. "No, luckily we didn't meet one", he replied.

At the crack of dawn the caravan was standing before a village, and soon it had its breakfast and was at home.

Around three O'clock they woke up, and were treated to a lunch. The villagers collected donations worth about one hundred rupees. The village elder briefed the tongawallah who in turn told the engine driver of the train that the eleven persons he had brought with him were immigrants and would travel to Karachi without tickets. The driver asked the T.T. not to bother the Bengali family during the journey.

What exactly happens on the border we do not know. As I was typing these lines a knock sounded at the door. A tallish man appeared there." I am Ahmad Saghir Shahzada, he said.

I was stunned for a moment. He had come to know of my address from the visiting card I had left with my interviewee. Mr. Shahzada said that the accounts of people

coming from Bangladesh are all correct except for one detail: they do not cross the borders unaided.

Making people cross the border is a regular business, which is mostly in the hands of the Burmese. These agents actually go to Bangladesh and tell people that for a nominal fee of three to four thousand rupees they would take them to Pakistan, which is a very prosperous country. They give many false promises too.

Another source said that only today two or three brokers might have left for Bangladesh to bring the next haul of migrants to Pakistan. The financiers of these brokers live in Burmi Colony, Moosa Colony and Orangi Town. Some of them also traffick in women.

My source says he himself has been instrumental in recovering 56 girls. "You'll still find some Burmese and Bengalis coming to Pakistan in search of their wives and sisters. These 'dallals' (brokers) are so cruel that they have strangled quite a few infants on the border and buried them there, because a woman without a child would fetch a higher price."

Would you say that the border police are involved? "It is impossible to say who is involved and who is not".

The Burmese and Bengalis are already more than one-and-a-half lakh strong in Karachi alone. The authorities have a very peculiar attitude towards them. The suggestion that a list be prepared of these illegal immigrants has not evoked any response.

CSO: 4600/757

JOINT VENTURES WITH JORDAN IDENTIFIED

Karachi DAWN in English 10 Sep 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

KARACHI, Sept 9: A number of areas have been identified for possible joint ventures between Pakistan and Jordan.

According to an annual assessment report on bilateral relations between the two countries during 1983, there are good prospects for co-operation between the two countries and Pakistan can greatly help in building Jordan's industrial base.

The report said the gainful areas for industrial joint venture approved by the Jordanian Government include cement, chemical fertilisers, petrochemical industry, readymade garments, glass containers, electric and telephone wires and cables, metal foundry, vegetable oil, vegetable and fruit containers, furniture, printing and packaging, travel goods, electrical fittings, prestressed concrete cylinder pipes, pumps, foundry and machinery, hand tools and imple-

ments, structural steel and electrical motors, transformers and fans.

The report prepared by Pakistan Embassy and received in the Investment Promotion Bureau, said Pak-Jordan cooperation in the industrial sector has remained confined largely to technical and manpower assistance.

Pakistani experts and technicians working in cement, potash and fertiliser factories as well as in the Jordan Electricity Corporation are Pakistan's only visible presence in this sector.

The report said Jordan is in the process of developing a sound industrial base to cut its present dependence on imports from abroad and to have an exportable surplus. The current Five-Year Plan has allocated dollar 3.2 billion to this sector and Pakistan may take part in building Jordan's industrial base not to our immediate economic advantage but also to the benefit of our long-term economic cooperation with the Kingdom.—PPI.

CSO: 4600/757

PAKISTAN, DPRK TO EXPAND COOPERATION

Karachi DAWN in English 10 Sep 84 p 3

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Sept 9: Pakistan and the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) will shortly finalise measures for joint ventures to further expand bilateral economic cooperation, Vice Foreign Minister of DPRK, Jon Yong Jin said here on Saturday.

Talking to newsmen on arrival at the head of a two-member Foreign Ministry delegation of DPRK on a three-day visit to Pakistan, Mr Jon Yong Jin said his country is keen to further develop friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries.

The DPRK Vice Foreign Minister said his delegation would discuss consolidation of bilateral relations and cooperation, as well as international affairs during its stay in Pakistan.

He said Pakistan and DPRK are already cooperating in the field of fisheries, and agriculture is another field where both can exchange their experiences and cooperate with each other.

Mr Jon Yong Jin hoped his visit

would provide him an opportunity to see at first-hand the successes achieved by Pakistan in the field of industry and agriculture under the leadership of President Gen. Zia-ul-Haq.

Mr. Jin said the people of his country under the wise leadership of their great leader Kim Il Sung and dear leader Kim Jong Il are affecting great innovations in socialist construction by making dynamic progress in three revolutions — ideological, technical and cultural — and launching a vigorous struggle to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

Mr Jin will have formal talks with Foreign Secretary Mr Niaz Naik on Sept 11 in Murree. Mr Naik visited DPRK a few weeks ago.

Mr Jin will call on the President on Sept. 10, on Monday, the delegation will meet the Director General Defence Production, the Chairman, Capital Development Authority, Islamabad and the Secretary General, Economic Affairs

CSO: 4600/757

BALUCH TRIBAL CHIEF ASSASSINATED

Karachi DAWN in English 10 Sep 84 p 1

[Text]

QUETTA, Sept 9: Sardar Rasul Baksh Zarakzai, chief of the Jhalawan tribe, who was shot dead late on Thursday night, was laid to rest in his home town in Khuzdar District on Friday.

Sardar Zarakzai, who was also the tribal head of the Zehris and a member of the Majlis-i-Shoora, fell victim to assassins' bullets during a reconciliation meeting at Zehri House, which was organised to settle long-standing family feuds between him and his step-brothers.

Malik Mohammad Umer, provincial Secretary for Food, who was also present at the meeting and received bullet injuries, was admitted to Civil Hospital, Quetta, where his condition is said to be improving.

The Acting Governor of Baluchistan, Lt-Gen K.K. Afridi, who condoled the death of Sardar Zarakzai, has ordered a thorough probe into the incident and immediate apprehension of the culprits.

Police are reported to be involved in intensive efforts to trace the assassins, who made good their escape after killing Sardar Zarakzai.

Sardar Rasul Bakhsh, who had succeeded his father, late Sardar Doda Khan Zarakzai as chief of the Zehri tribe after the latter's death in a road accident a year ago, was stated to be involved in serious family feuds with his step-brothers. Efforts to bring about a rapprochement between them had been going on for quite some time at the behest of certain tribal elders.

Some of these elders had assembled on Thursday evening in Zehri House, the Quetta residence of Mir Nabi Bakhsh Zehri. Parties involved in the disputes were reported to be present on the occasion.

Participants at the meeting, who included a spiritual personality, Pir Zainuddin Agha, deliberated the issues involved at great length. They were eventually able to convince Sardar Rasul Bakhsh Zarakzai and his step-brothers, Sanaullah, Sikandar Khan and Ali Khan, to embrace each other.

When the decisions arrived at were being put on paper through a petition writer engaged for the purpose, some armed persons appeared on the scene and opened fire with automatic weapons.

A number of bullets reportedly pierced the body of Sardar Zarakzai, killing him on the spot, while Malik Mohammad Umer sustained relatively minor injuries.

Agencies add: President Gen Zia-ul-Haq has expressed deep grief over the tragic death of Sardar Zarakzai and offered his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. Federal Ministers for Defence and Communications, Mir Ali Ahmad Talpur and Mr Mohiuddin Baloch, as well as the Chairman of the Majlis-i-Shoora, Khwaja Mohammad Safdar, have also condoled the tribal chief's demise.

The Acting Governor of Baluchistan, Lt-Gen Afridi, visited the village of Sardar Zarakzai and offered his condolences to the bereaved family. He also offered Fateha at the late chief's grave.

PRIORITY URGED FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Karachi DAWN in English 10 Sep 84 p 7

[Text]

A SPOKESMAN of the PCSIR has pointed out that fewer and fewer students are opting for higher education in science today than before. This is most disquieting, especially in view of the fact that the fall in the enrolment of students for post-graduate studies in pure sciences has been quite significant. In some cases, it is even said that the number registering for the M.Sc. has dropped by over 30 per cent since 1977. This decline is quite disturbing because, as it is, the total number of students taking up pure sciences is not very impressive. For instance, Pakistan produces on an average only 12 Ph.Ds. in sciences every year as compared to 5,000 in Britain. It is distressing that, despite the universally acknowledged fact that science and technology are indispensable tools of progress in any country, Pakistan has continued to neglect this vital sector. No serious attempt has been made to promote indigenous research which is so essential for the economic development. This has led to excessive dependence on foreign technology.

The poor standard of education and the lack of emphasis on science have led to an inadequate output of sufficiently qualified scientists. While this has adversely affected the pace of scientific research, equally

responsible is the apathy of the industrial sector towards technological research. In the industrialised world private corporations normally play a major role in initiating and sustaining research projects. In Pakistan, industry's contribution in scientific research is negligible. In fact, the industrial sector has, by and large, displayed scant interest in science, and even the results of research conducted by some officially-sponsored bodies are also not put to use in many cases. For example, only 50 of the processes developed by the PCSIR after intensive research have been taken up by industries for commercial use, while 119 are still lying unutilised. It is true that not all end-results of research conducted by a specialised agency is industrially and economically feasible or can be put to immediate use. Yet the rate of industry's acceptance of the PCSIR's technical and scientific processes for commercial utilisation is disappointingly low. One important reason is lack of coordination between the two sectors. In this context, the PCSIR's suggestion that intermediary bodies be formed comprising both scientists and industrialists is a sound one since it will enable them to work together which is essential if science is to be used to produce technology for industrial use.

It must be stressed, however, that the private sector alone cannot bring about a fundamental change in the prospects for science in the country. The lead must come from the Government. The UN has adjudged one per cent of the GNP as the minimum a developing country should spend on scientific research and development; we spend only 0.16 per cent of our GNP on R & D. The result is a distressing shortage of research institutions in the country and the dwindling number of scientists. This state of affairs calls for early rectification. While some effort has lately been made to create a general awareness of the need to promote science, no practical steps have been taken so far to increase the output of scientists, improve their standards and provide them funds for research. The Sixth Five-Year Plan hopes to increase the allocation to R & D to 0.5 per cent of the GNP by 1988. This target can be met only if declarations of intent lead to tangible action designed to promote science and technology in teaching as in application. It is also important that the facilities for teaching science in schools, colleges, universities and other educational institutions be expanded so that more scientists are produced to conduct research and play a more meaningful role in economic development.

CSO: 4600/757

RICE CROPPING TRIALS INITIATED

Karachi DAWN in English 10 Sep 84 Business Supplement p I

[Text.]

LARKANA, Sept 9: The International Rice Cropping Pattern project has been started in Sind for which the international rice-wheat rotation trials have been initiated at Rice Research Institute, Dokri, as very little research is being conducted on cropping pattern in the country, said Dr. Illahi Bakhsh Bhatti, Director Sind Rice Research Institute, Dokri, here.

The farmers, he maintained cannot increase their annual income because of the entire dependence on only one crop. In rice areas the farmers are depending on rice crop and traditionally small income is derived from the rotation crops grown in Rabi after harvesting of rice. In areas where about 90% of the rice is grown, wheat is planted in rotation with rice.

In Sind, some of the crops, cultivated after rice, are pulses including gram, matri, and lentils, wheat fodders, like barseem and lucerne. These crops are cultivated, keeping in view the location of the market, soil and climatic conditions and the time of the harvest of the rice crop.

Trials in other states

He further said the keeping in view all such objectives, the international rice wheat integrated trials have been started in various countries of the world, which are jointly coordinated by International Rice Research Institute, Philippines, and International Wheat Research Institute, Mexico. Through this project, IRRI and CIMM YT assist various countries to intensify their food production efforts through cropping patterns,

involving rice and wheat.

Elaborating the steps, Dr. Bhatti said that initially the programme will focus in identification of better varieties, like pests and diseases resistant that fit the rice — wheat system. Later, the plan for collaborative work on crop management and other production problems concerned with rice-wheat cropping system would jointly be developed and implemented. The rice varieties will be selected from among the best performing entries, tested in International Rice yield trials through IRRI. The CIMMYT will promote the seeds of wheat varieties to be drawn from the entries in the wheat international yield trials.

Farming system

In this connection, Dr. Bhatti said recently Dr. V.R. Caranagal, Head, Rice Farming System Programme of International Rice Research Institute, Philippines, who is coordinating this world-wide project, visited Rice Research Institute, Dokri, and discussed the progress of this project, with the scientists of the Institute.

Dr Bhatti said that with the success of this project at this Institute, it would be possible for Sind farmers to get better and high-yielding varieties, best suited to the local environment and other conditions. It would also encourage and incline farmers to concentrate on rotation crop of wheat to boost up the productivity in order to improve their economic conditions and help in avoiding dependence on one crop only and was hopeful about best results of this project.

KARACHI INDUSTRIALISTS SAID TO PREFER MILITARY RULE

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 11 Aug 84 Magazine pp 1, 12

[Ilyas Shakir column "Karachi Diary"]

[Text] Karachi is now in the grip of the rains and reports about the approaching elections. We have to believe the latter, because the president himself says that the date for the general elections has been fixed. The defunct political parties, however, have not, jointly or separately, made any statement regarding their reaction to the proposed elections. They have probably thrown themselves on the mercy of circumstances. As a result, a new power will enter the field to fill this vacuum, and all of our political traditions will be destroyed. One reason the political parties have lost their prestige is that some of them took part in the local elections. This caused a rift in their ranks. Those who boycotted the local elections had to pay heavily for it. But even if they had not boycotted the local elections they would have suffered a setback under the present circumstances. The politicians in Karachi make no comment on the coming elections. They say they are not willing to play on the regime's turf. But when they were asked if they were in a position to present a united front like the Bangladesh politicians, they confessed that they were not united and active but on the other hand were tired and disorganized.

A year ago, on 12 August 1983, the president gave us a new political setup and promised to hold elections in March 1985 and hand over power to the representatives of the people.

From August 1983 until now there have been general discussions as to what sort of elections the country is going to have and what part the political parties are going to play in them. What is the definition of a candidate and what are the qualifications of a voter? Will the chief of the government be a civilian or not? Will women be allowed to take part in the elections? These discussions confused the people but they also made them think for themselves. They learned to discuss politics. We do not yet know the net results of these debates, but we have great expectations. It is hoped that the present year will be spent in preparations for the elections.

People want to know who is going to be the next president of the country. Who will be the candidate for leadership of the parliament chosen as a result

of the elections? Most political circles in Karachi want to have Ziaul Haq as the next president. MRD is not as influential in Karachi as elsewhere. Karachi is basically an industrial and commercial city, and industrialists prefer a military government to a parliament consisting of feudalists. Industrialists suffered great loss as a result of their clash with the feudalists in 1971. They do not want to go through that bitter experience again. They declare that if the regime wants to satisfy the common people's desire for participation in the government they should hold elections but stick to the present form and setup of the government. The attitude of the industrialists has influenced the political and social workers of Karachi, who naturally want to work for the welfare of that area. Mohammad Rafiq Sheaykh, senior vice chairman of the Save Pakistan Movement, has started a petition campaign, in which he is collecting signatures for an appeal asking President Ziaul Haq to run for the presidency in the coming elections and give the nation the benefit of his experience.

It is possible that social and quasipolitical associations, too, will make a similar appeal to the president. Members of the local government and of provincial councils may also follow suit by asking the president to take part in the elections. It seems that the future of the country will be decided by President Ziaul Haq.

12476

CSO: 4656/193

END

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

17 Oct 1984